

MARVEL®

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



F/R



Stan Lee
PRESENTS: " "

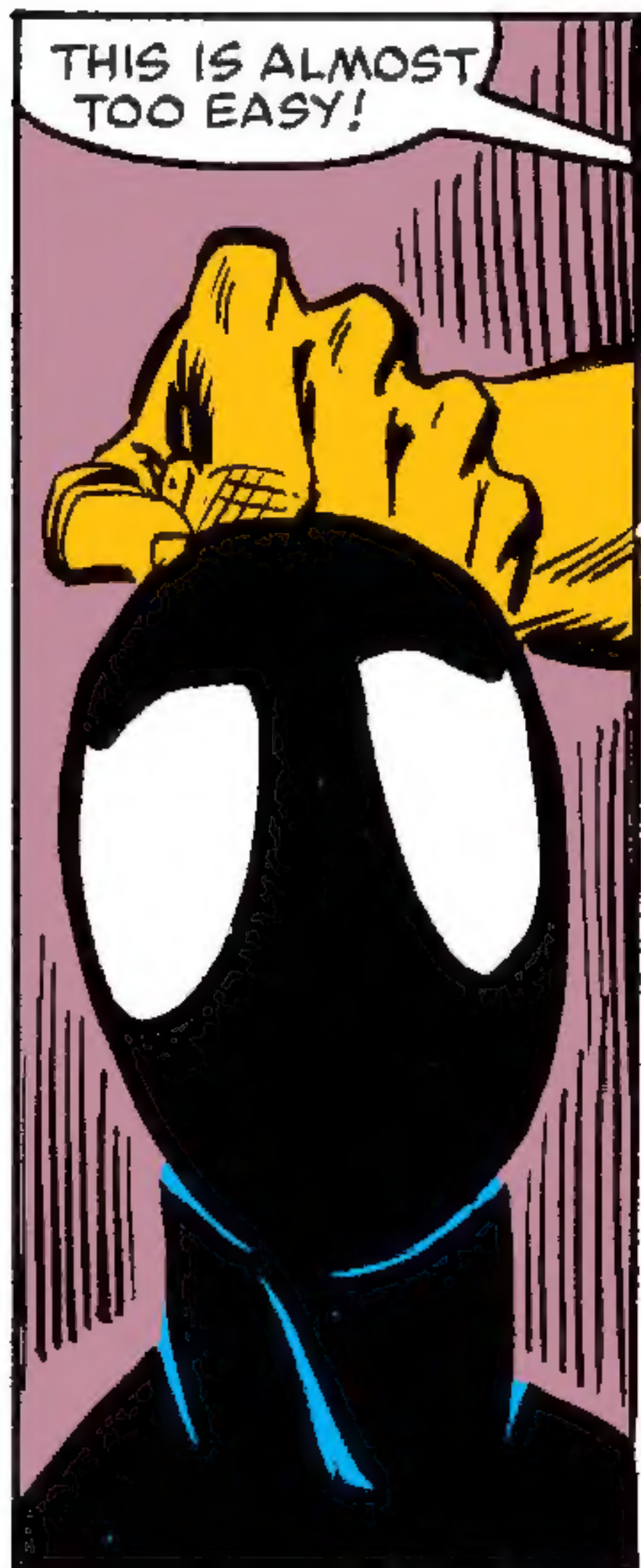
BEWARE THE CLAWS OF PUMA!

SPIDER-MAN IS
STILL HELPLESS!
UNCONSCIOUS --!

BAH! A VICTORY LIKE
THIS BRINGS NO PLEASURE
TO PUMA-- BUT THE WEB-
SWINGER MUST DIE! AND
SO, HE SHALL...

MERE MOMENTS AGO, THE EVER-
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
DISLOCATED HIS LEFT ARM WHEN
HE WAS UNEXPECTEDLY ATTACKED
BY THE MAN-BEAST KNOWN AS
PUMA! AFTER HEROICALLY SHOV-
ING HIS ARM BACK INTO PLACE,
OUR HERO FINALLY SUCCUMBED
TO THE INCREDIBLE PAIN! AND NOW...

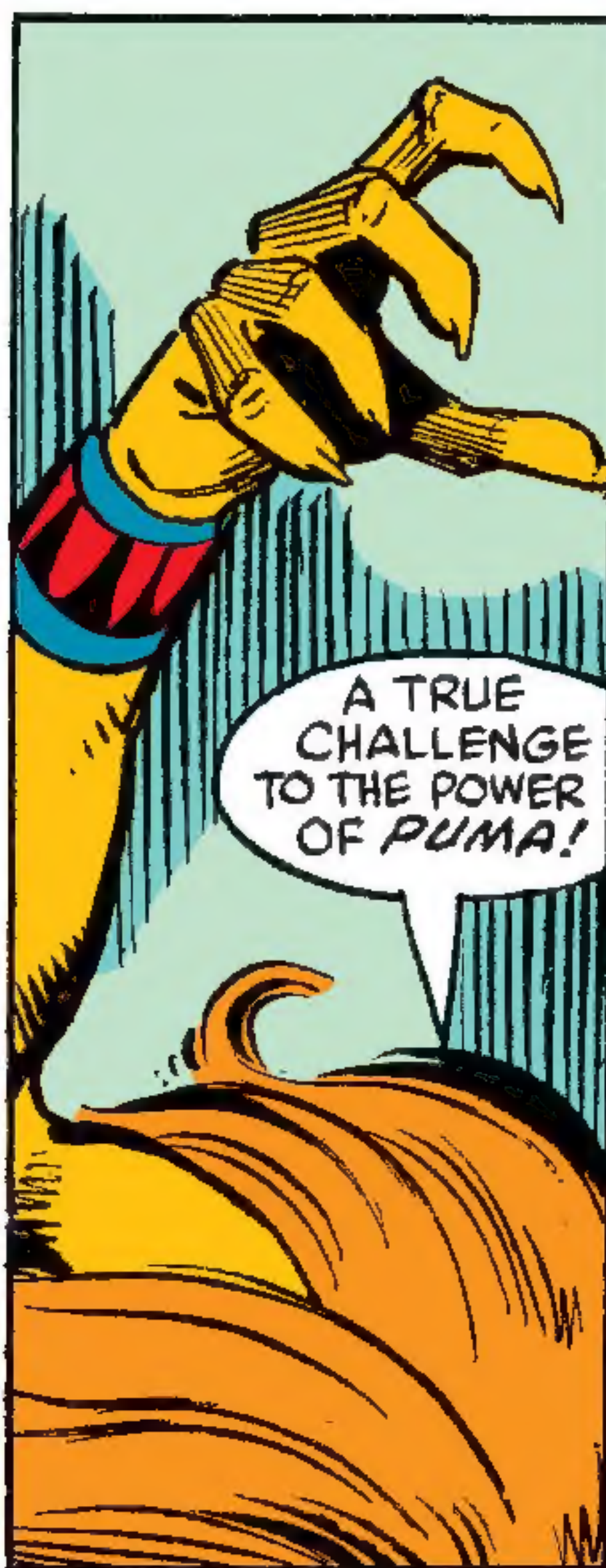
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TOM DEFALCO -- WRITER
RON FRENZ -- PENCILER
JOSEF RUBINSTEIN -- INKER
JOE ROSEN -- LETTERER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE -- COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH -- EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER -- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY!



WHEN THE ROSE FIRST HIRED ME TO KILL SPIDER-MAN, HE PROMISED ME A WORTHY FOE!



A TRUE CHALLENGE TO THE POWER OF PUMA!

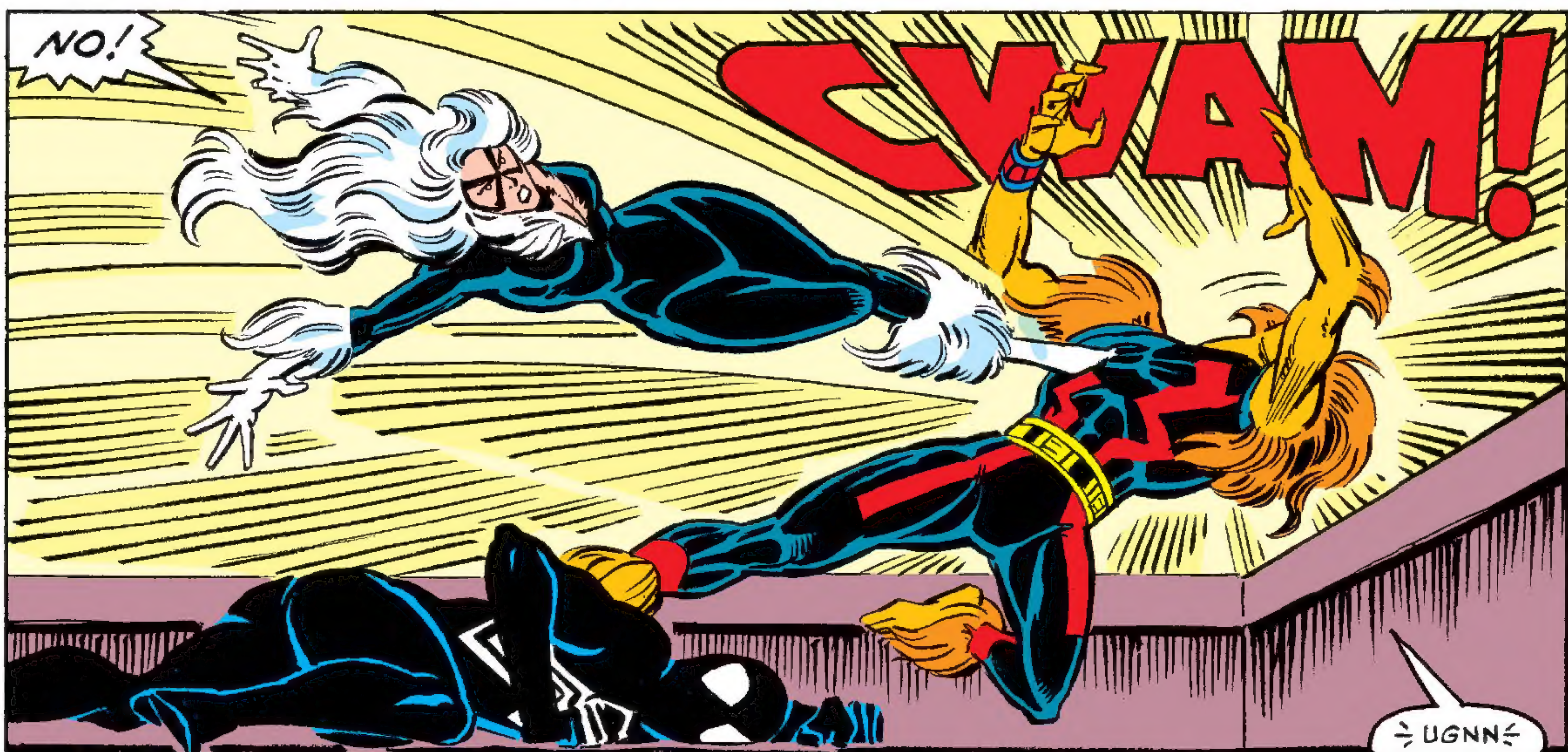


THE ROSE LIED!



SPIDER-MAN IS A WEAKLING! A COWARD!

HE DESERVES TO DIE!



NO!

CRASH!

UGNN

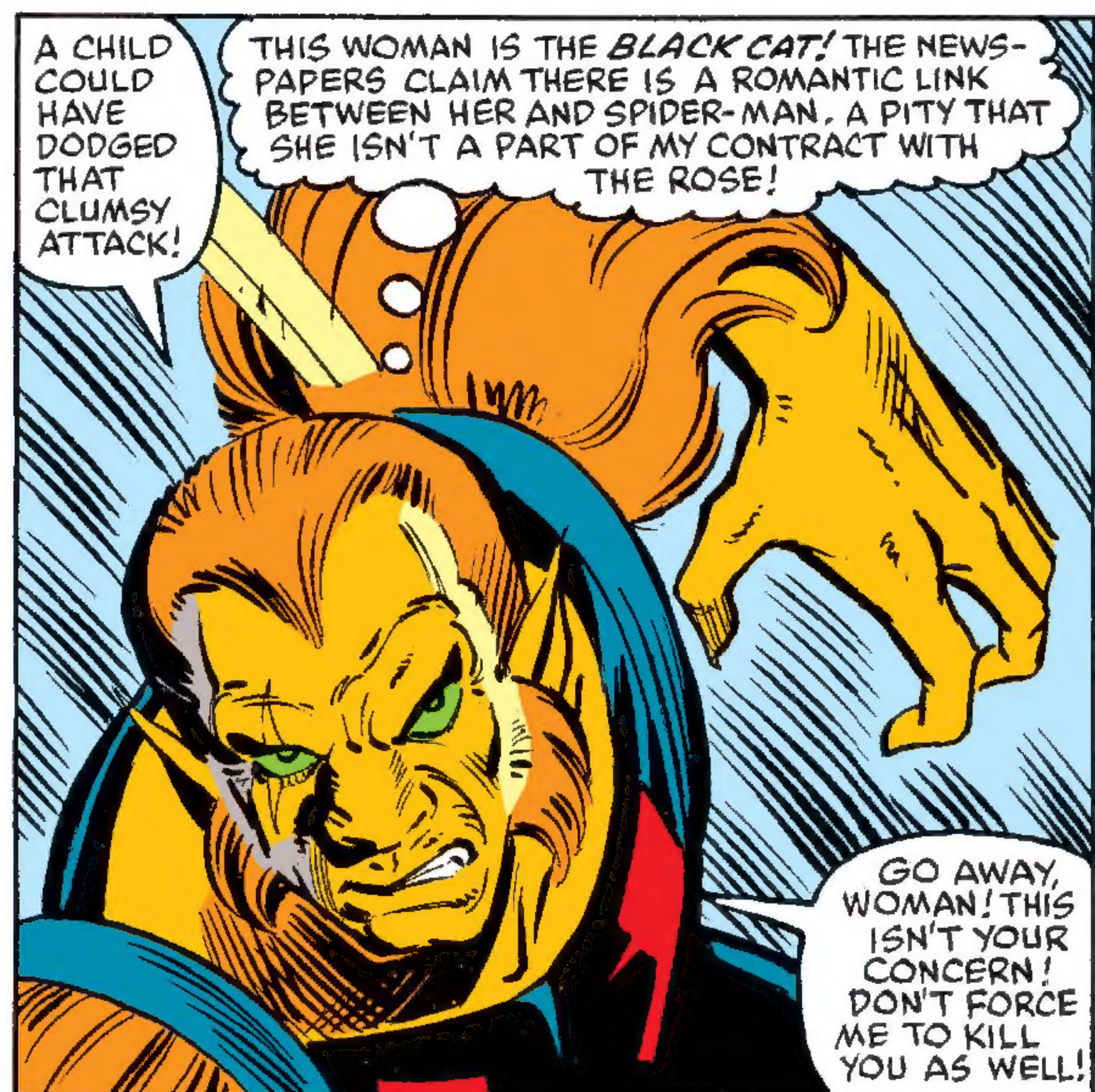


MANAGED TO RECOVER MY BALANCE, BUT SHE'S ATTACKING AGAIN--!

WHOOPS! MISSED 'IM!

YOU'RE GOOD, MISTER! FAST! AGILE, TOO!

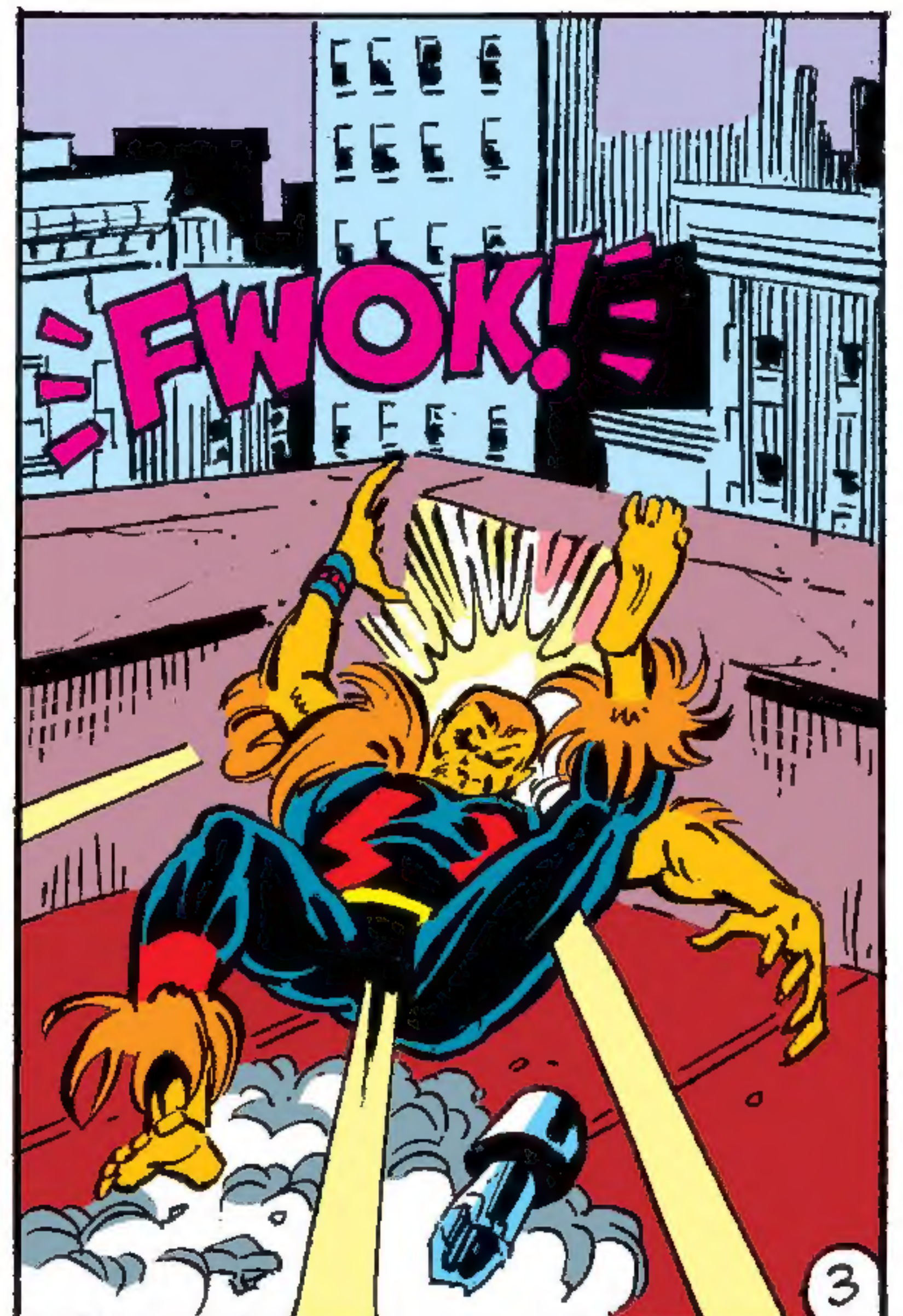
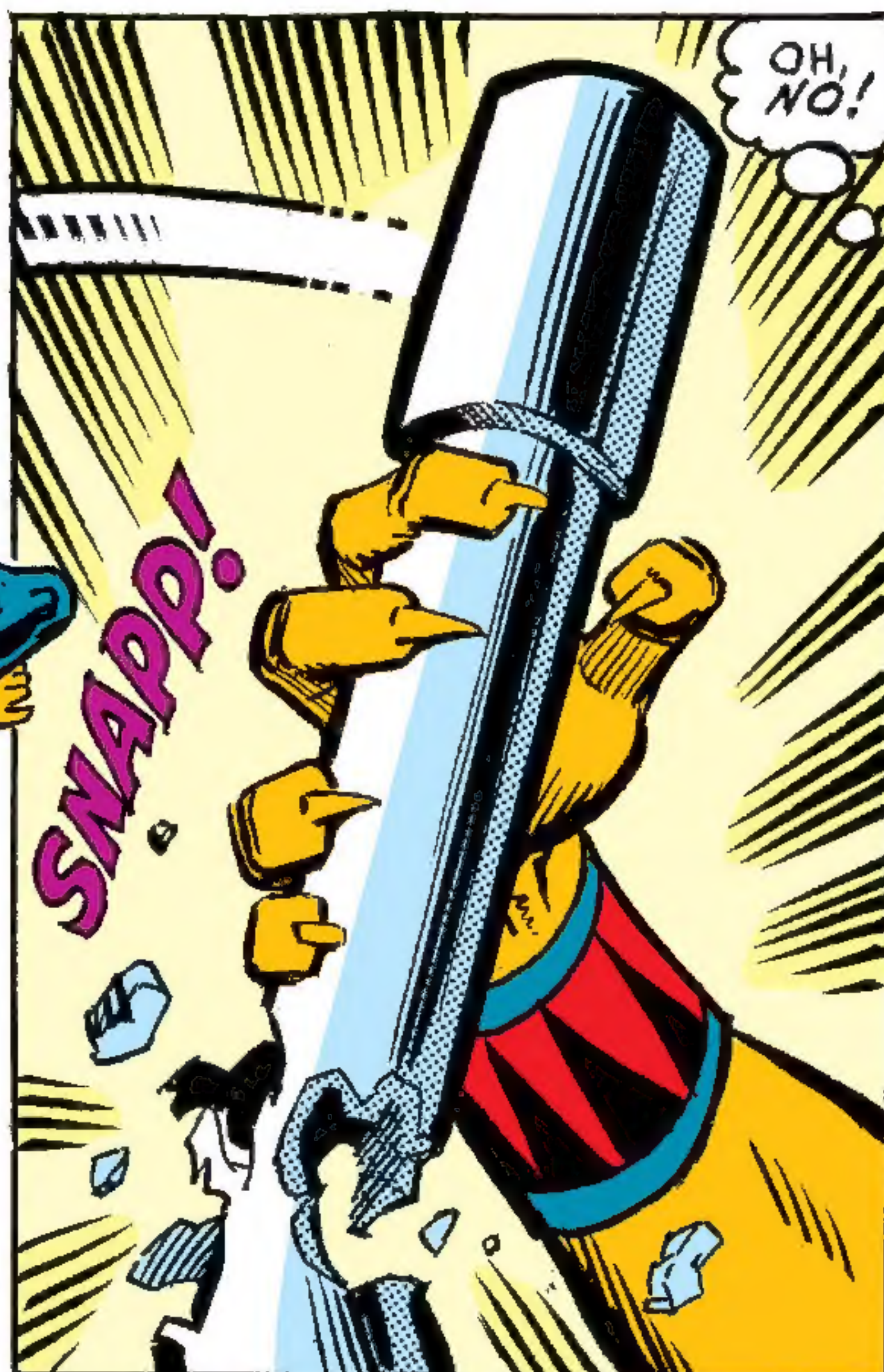
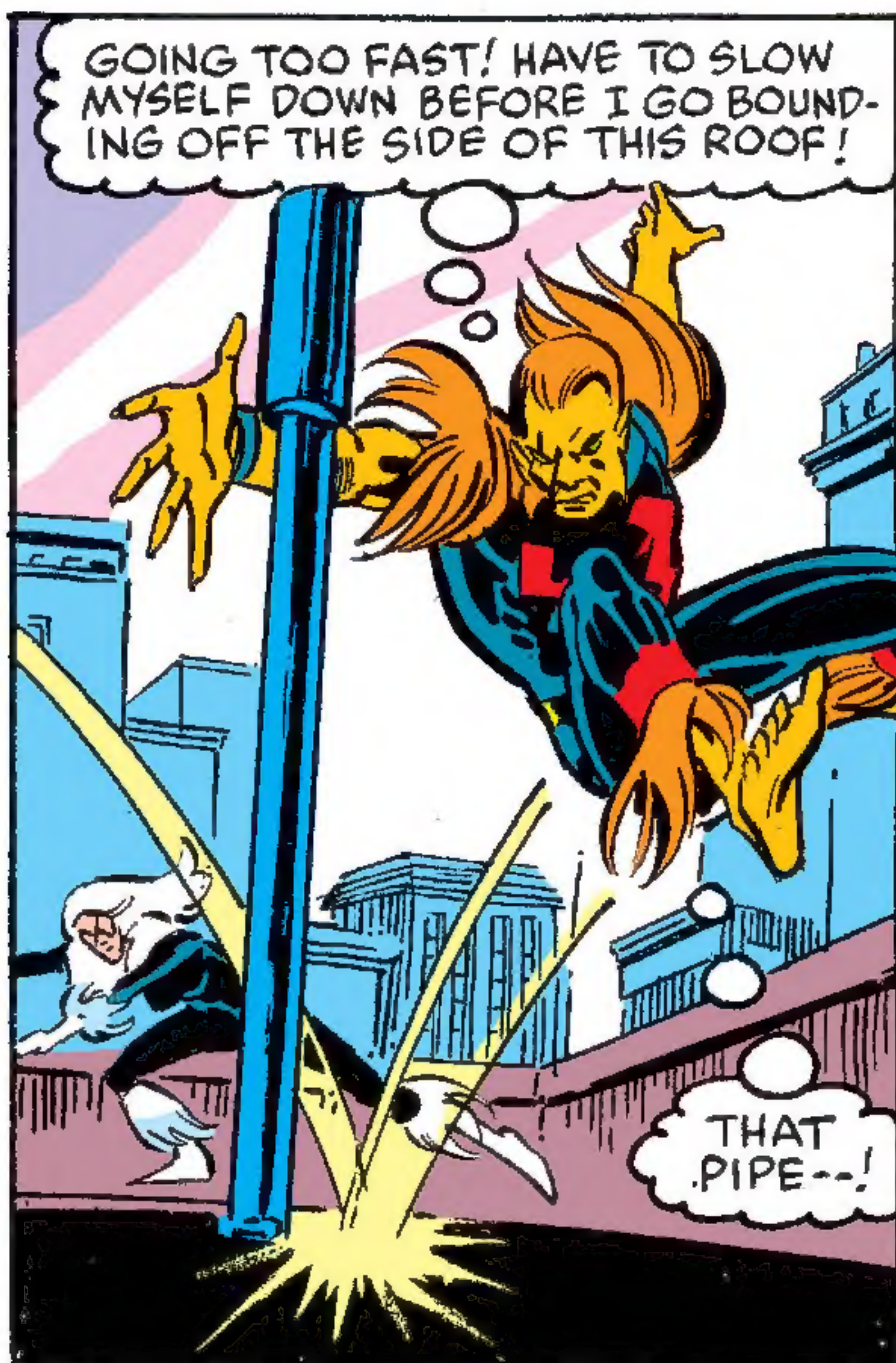
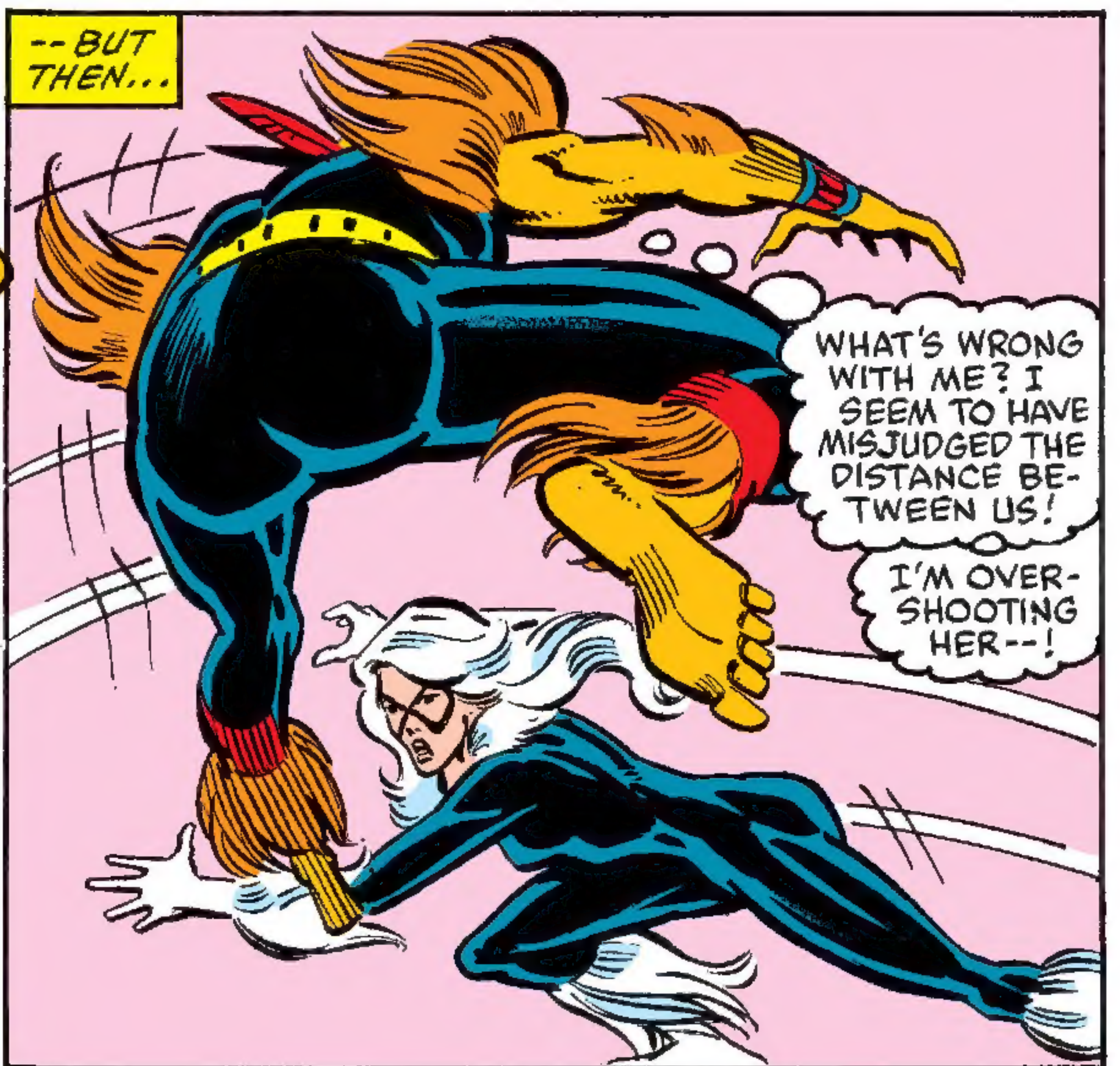
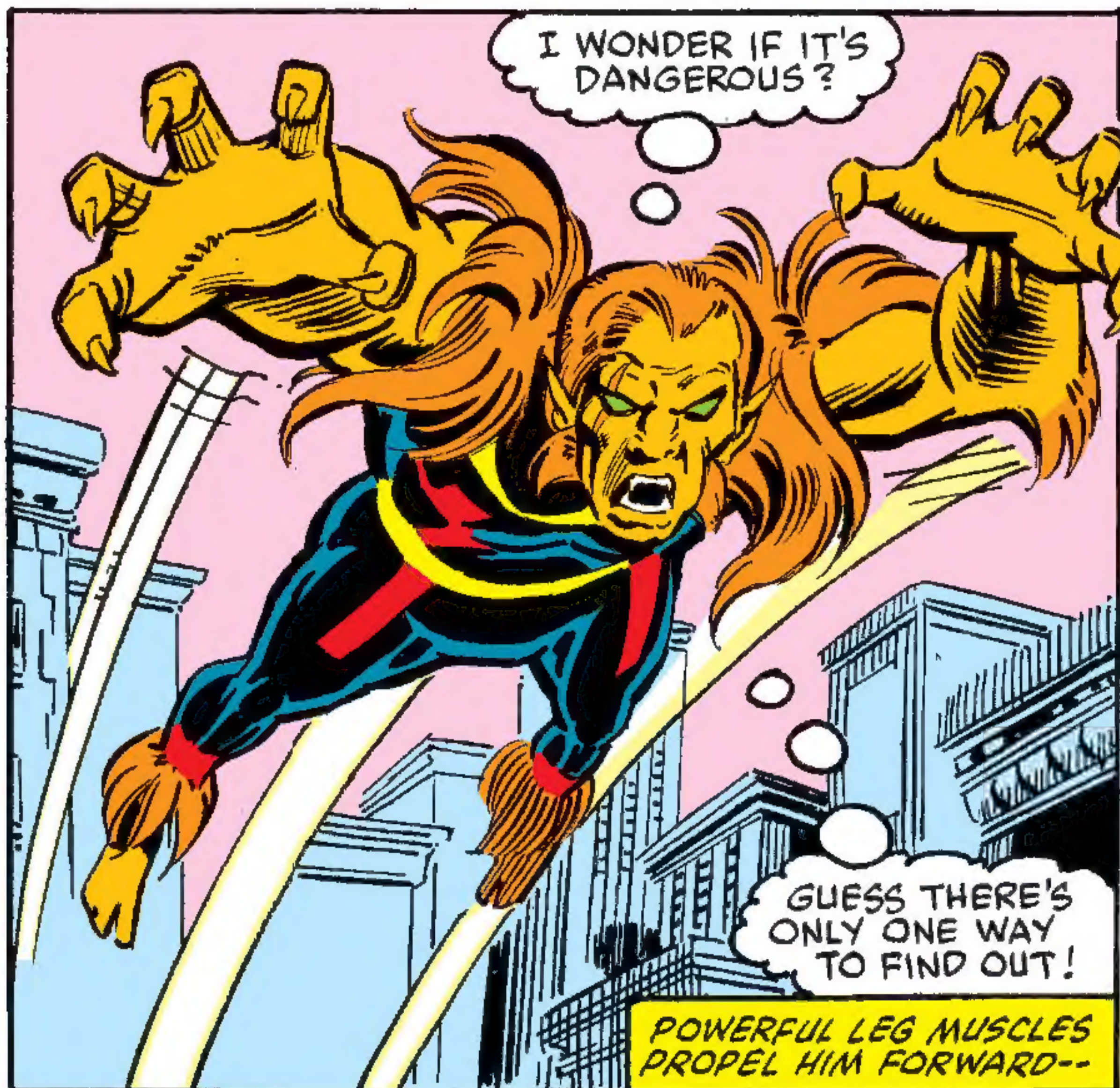
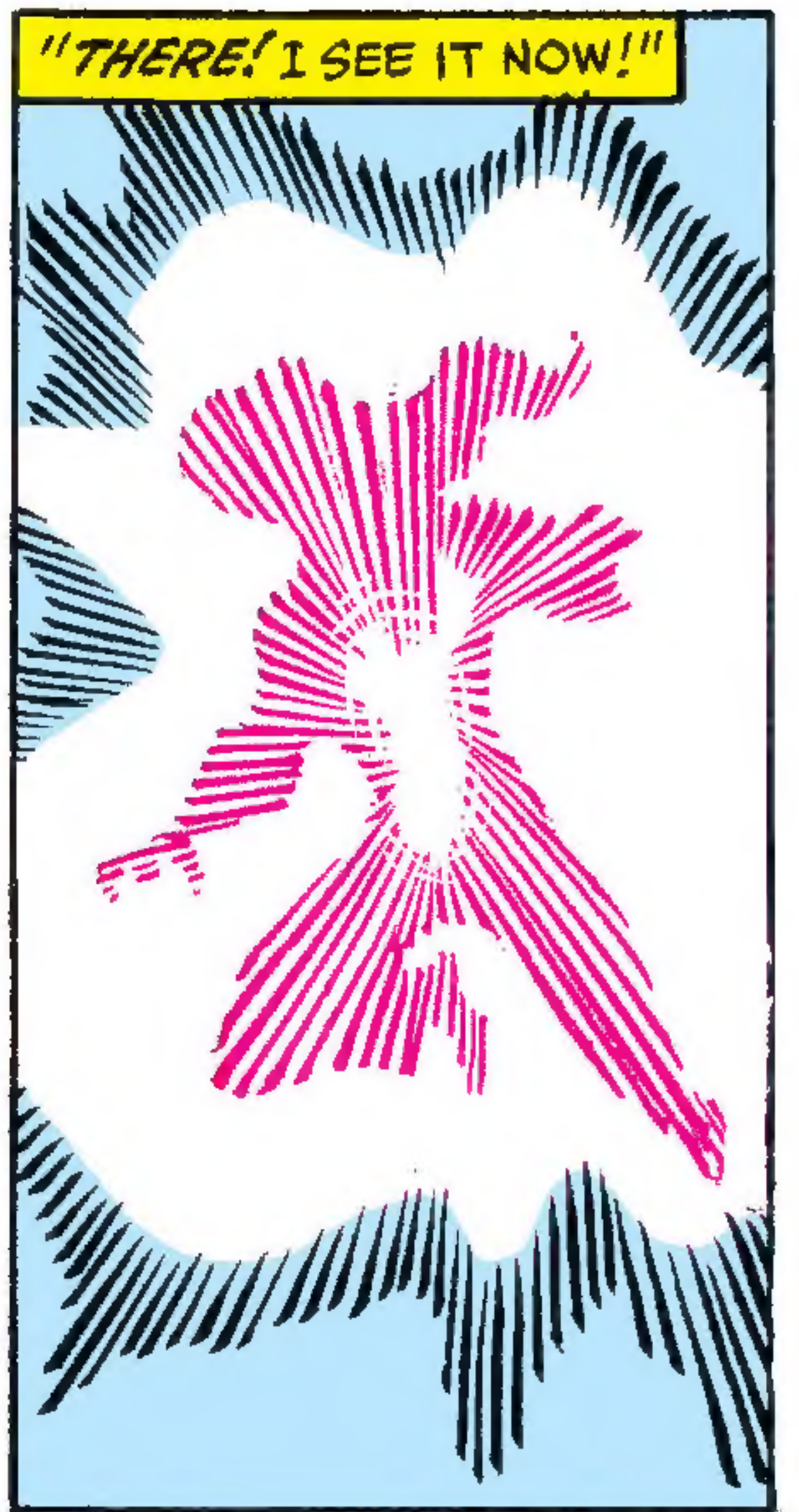
DO NOT FLATTER YOURSELF, WOMAN!



A CHILD COULD HAVE DODGED THAT CLUMSY ATTACK!

THIS WOMAN IS THE *BLACK CAT*! THE NEWS-PAPERS CLAIM THERE IS A ROMANTIC LINK BETWEEN HER AND SPIDER-MAN, A PITY THAT SHE ISN'T A PART OF MY CONTRACT WITH THE ROSE!

GO AWAY, WOMAN! THIS ISN'T YOUR CONCERN! DON'T FORCE ME TO KILL YOU AS WELL!

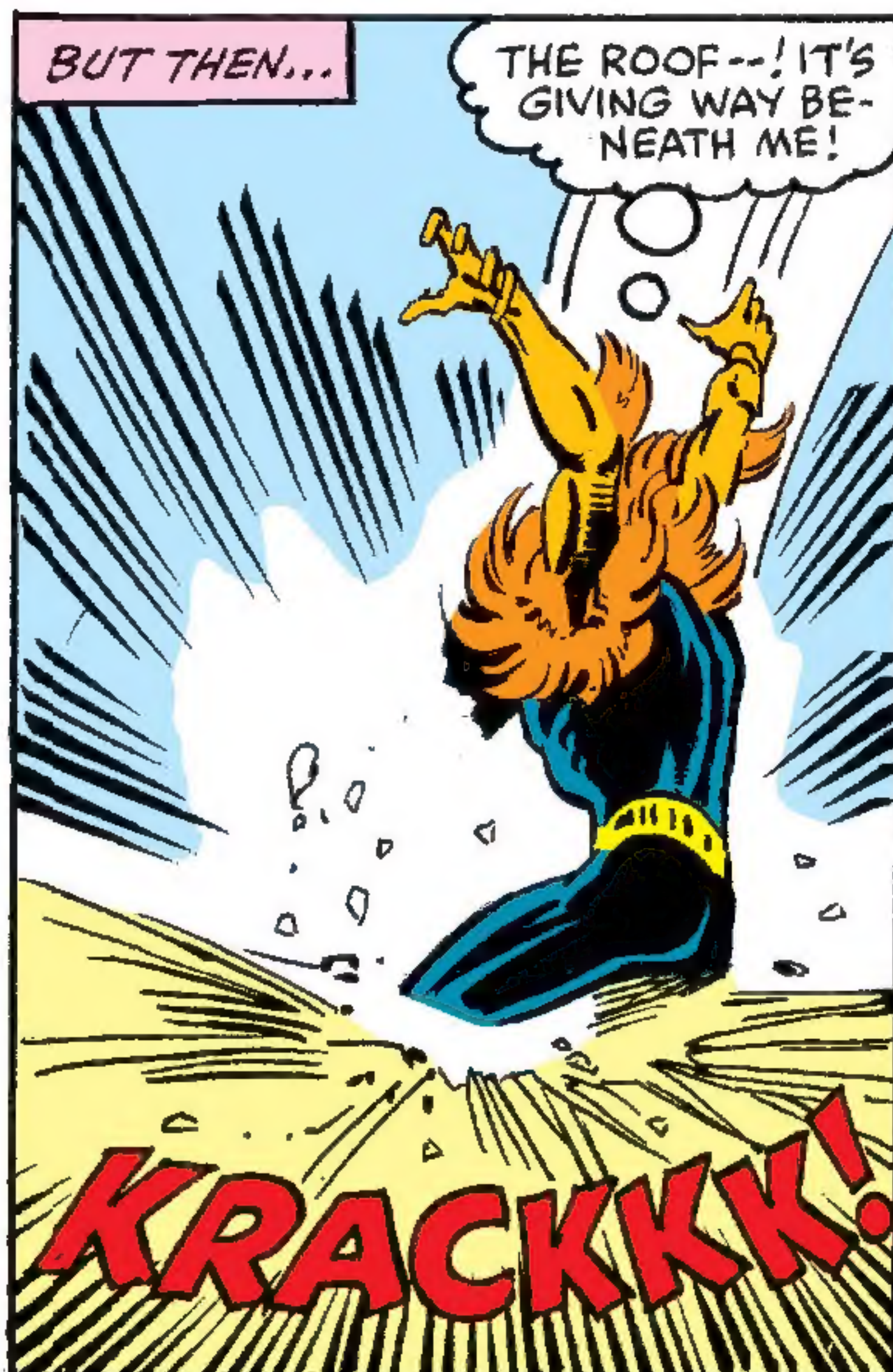




NOTHING LIKE THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE! MY SENSE OF BALANCE IS PERFECT!

COULD THE CAT'S MYSTERIOUS AURA HAVE CAUSED IT?

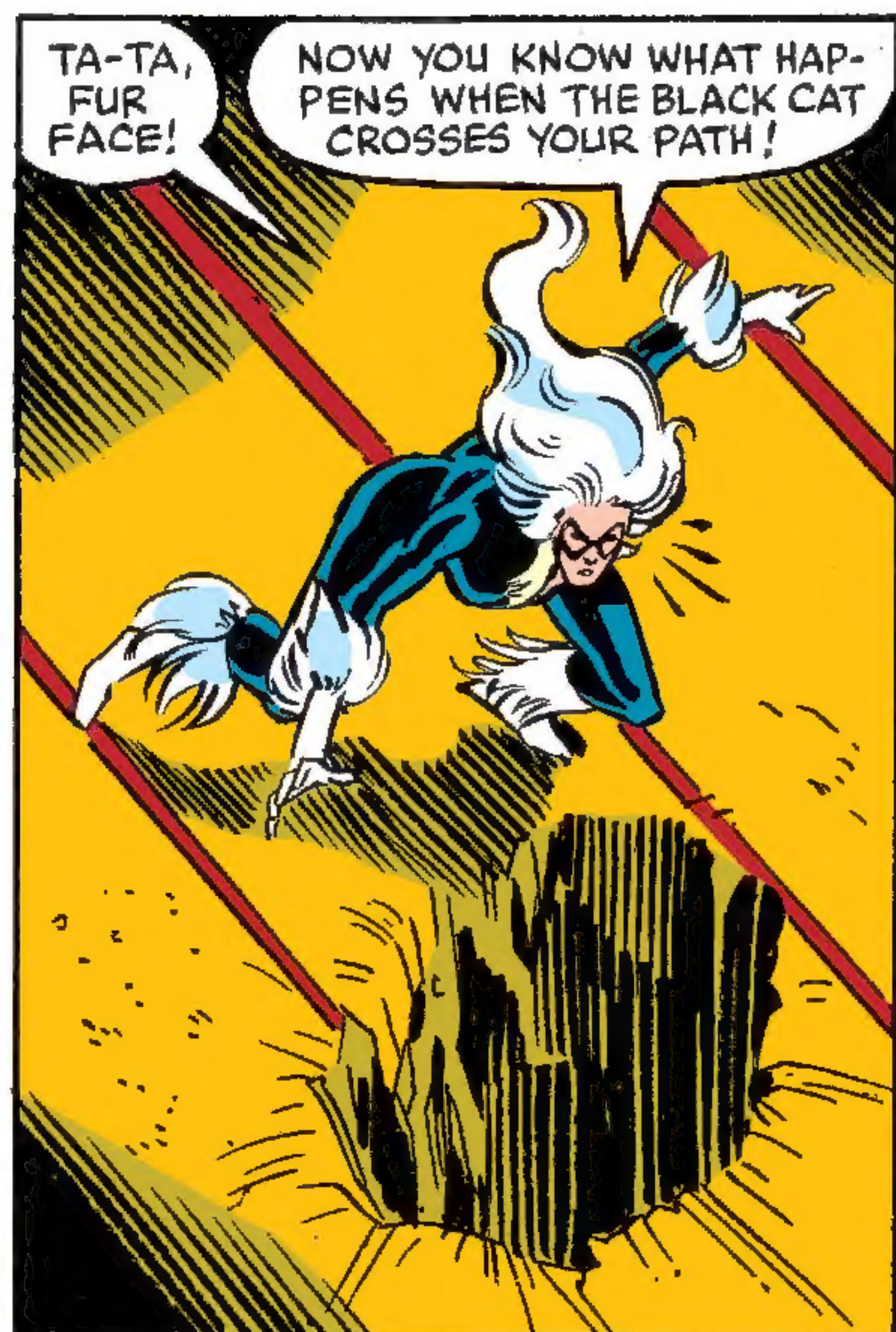
SEEKING TO CONFIRM HIS SUSPICIONS, PUMA SPRINGS TO HIS FEET, RENEWING HIS ONSLAUGHT ON THE CAT...



BUT THEN...

THE ROOF--! IT'S GIVING WAY BENEATH ME!

KRACKKK!



TA-TA, FUR FACE!

NOW YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE BLACK CAT CROSSES YOUR PATH!



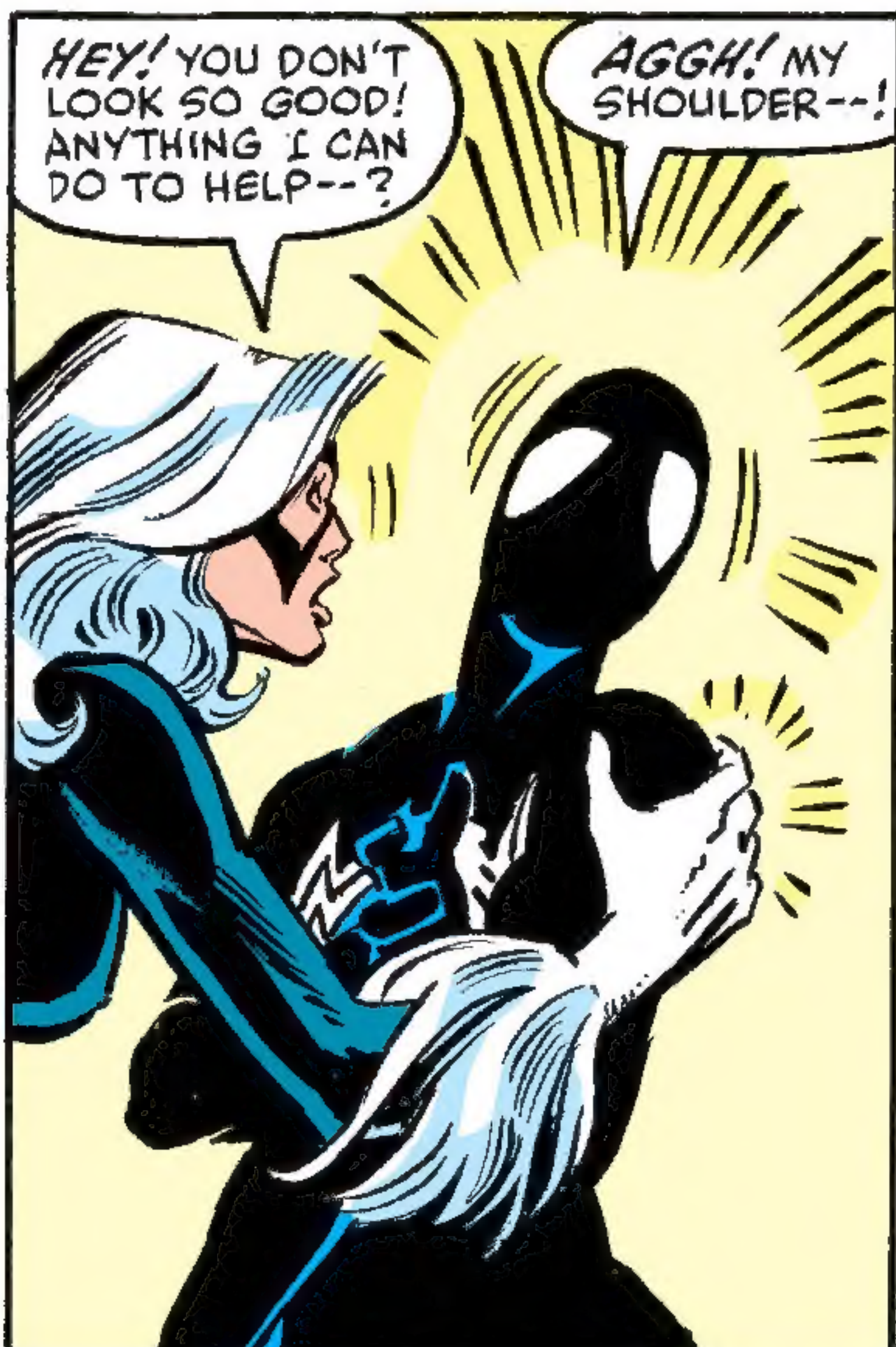
UNNN

SPIDER! YOU'RE AWAKE--!

C-CAT, IS THAT YOU?

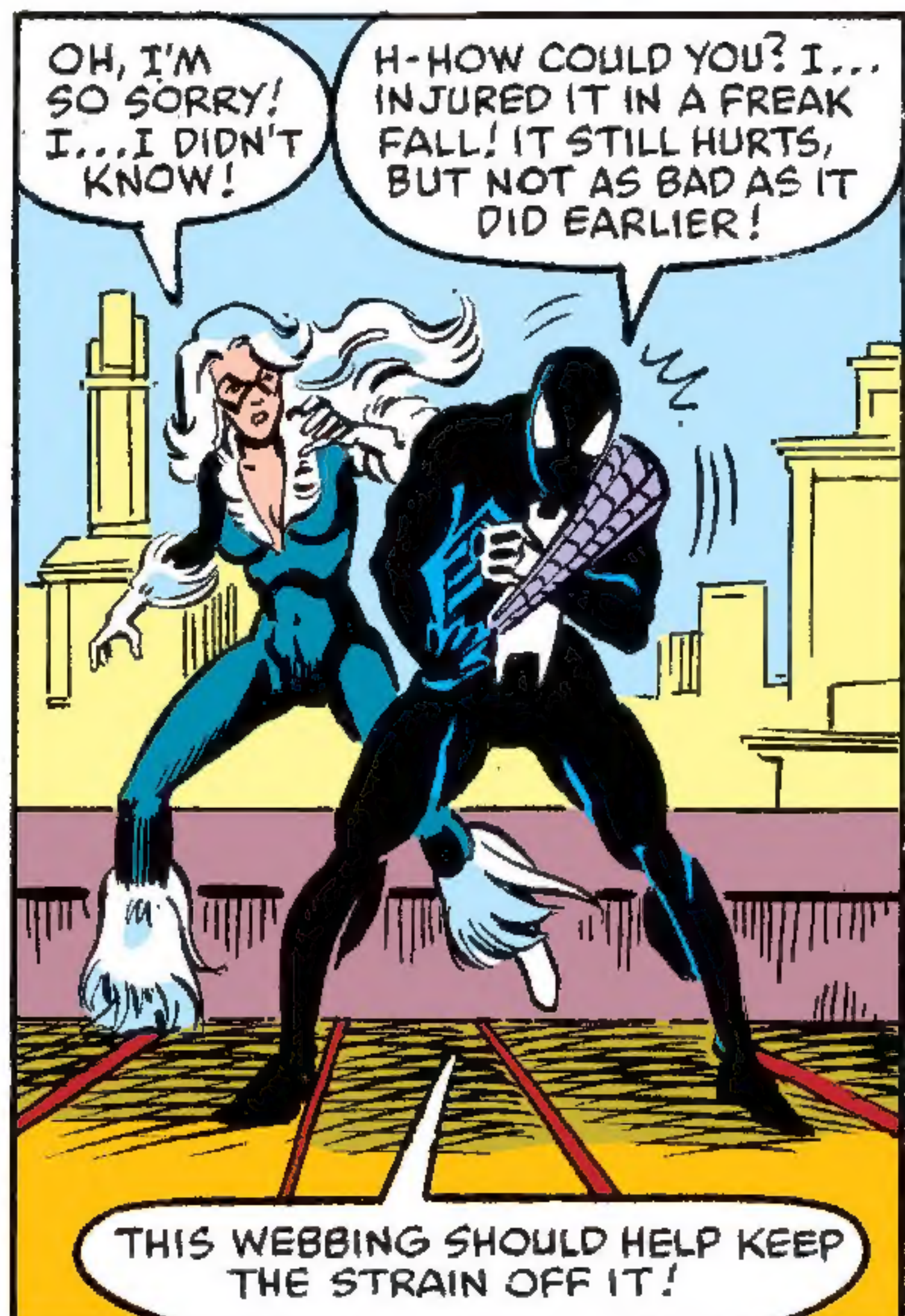
WHO ELSE?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT CLOWN WHO ATTACKED YOU, HON! I JUST TOOK CARE OF HIM!



HEY! YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD! ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP--?

AGGH! MY SHOULDER--!



OH, I'M SO SORRY! I... I DIDN'T KNOW!

H-HOW COULD YOU? I... INJURED IT IN A FREAK FALL! IT STILL HURTS, BUT NOT AS BAD AS IT DID EARLIER!

THIS WEBBING SHOULD HELP KEEP THE STRAIN OFF IT!



LOOK, WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!

PWIP!

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN TRAVEL?

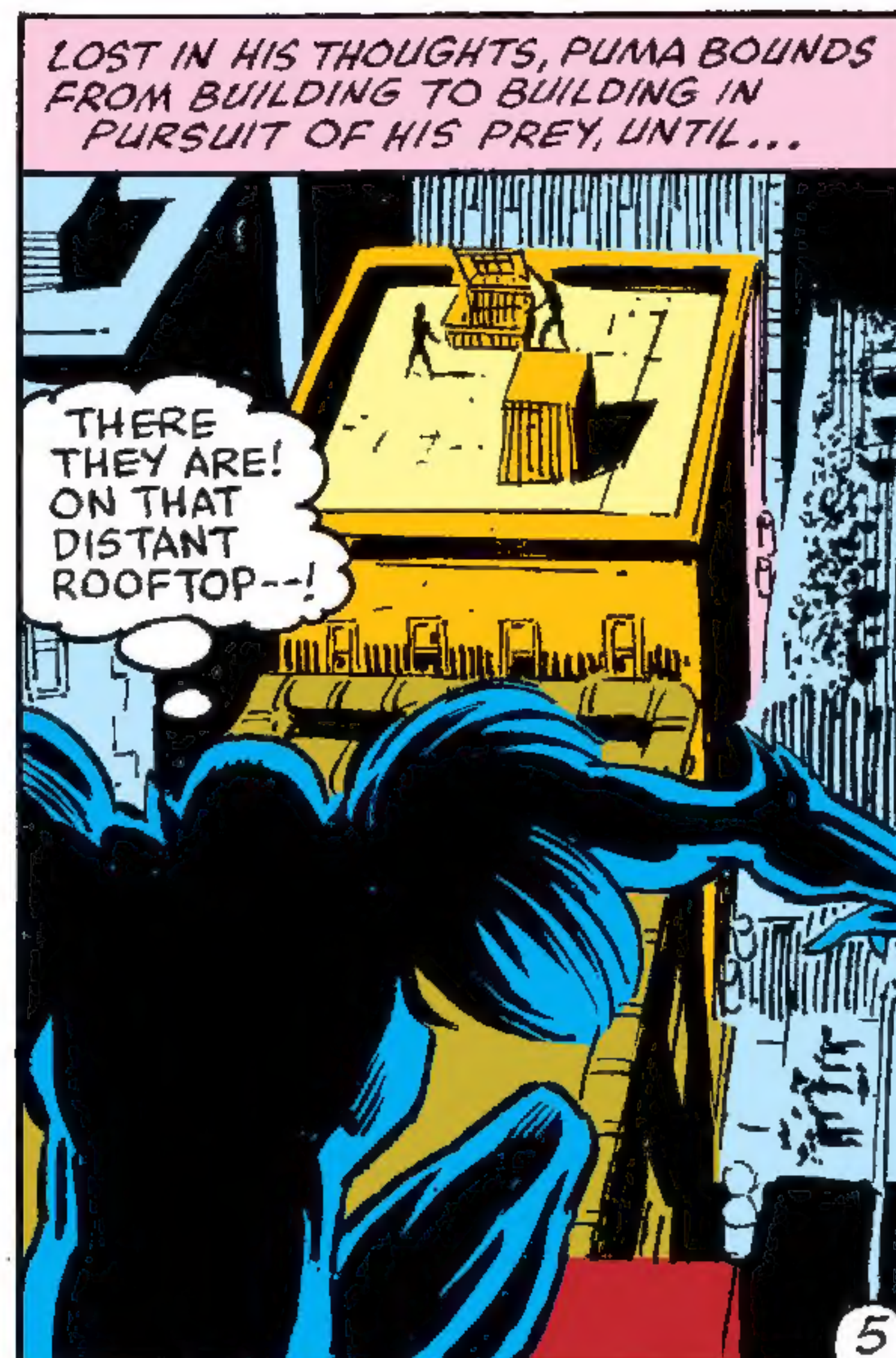
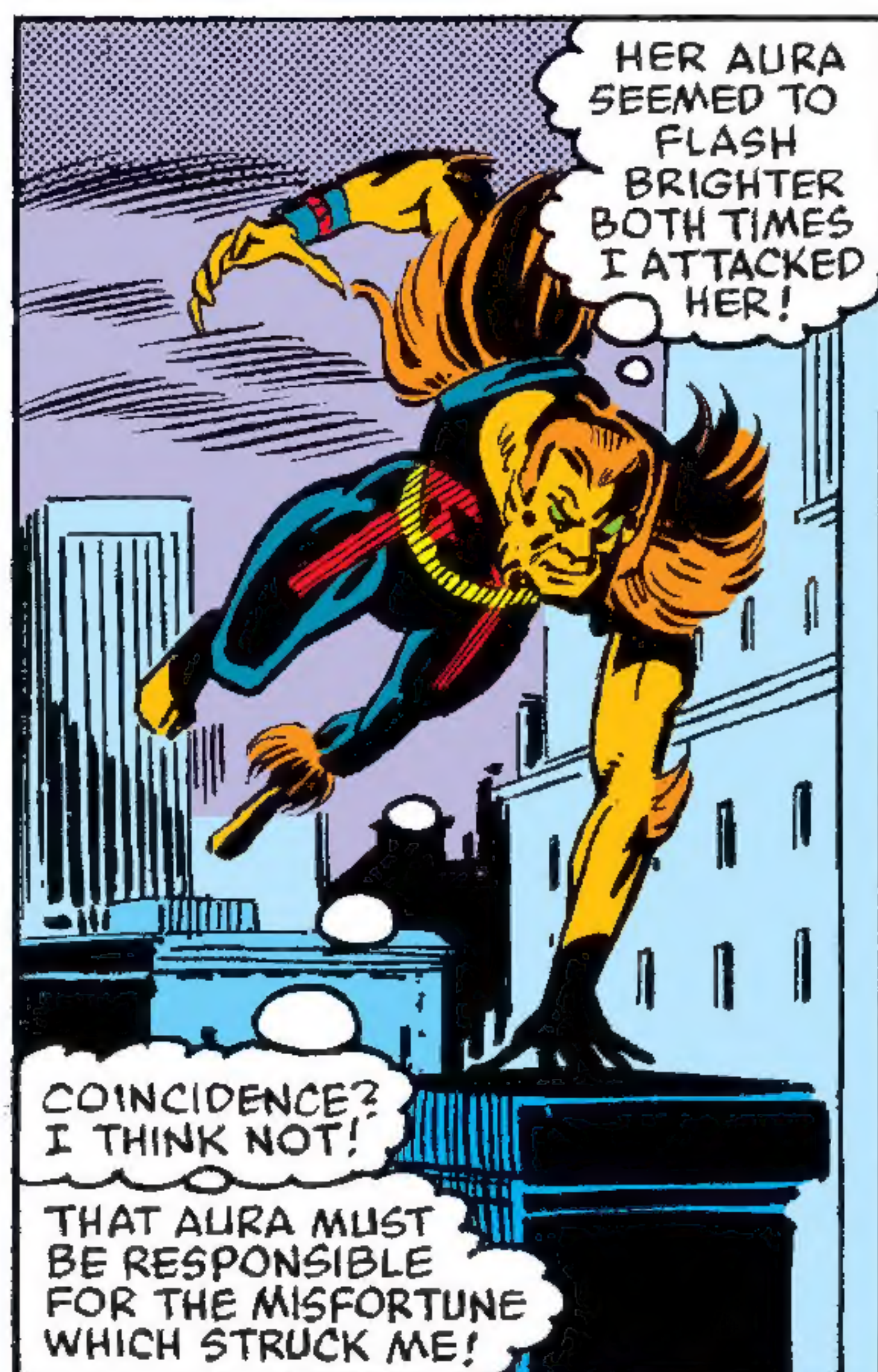
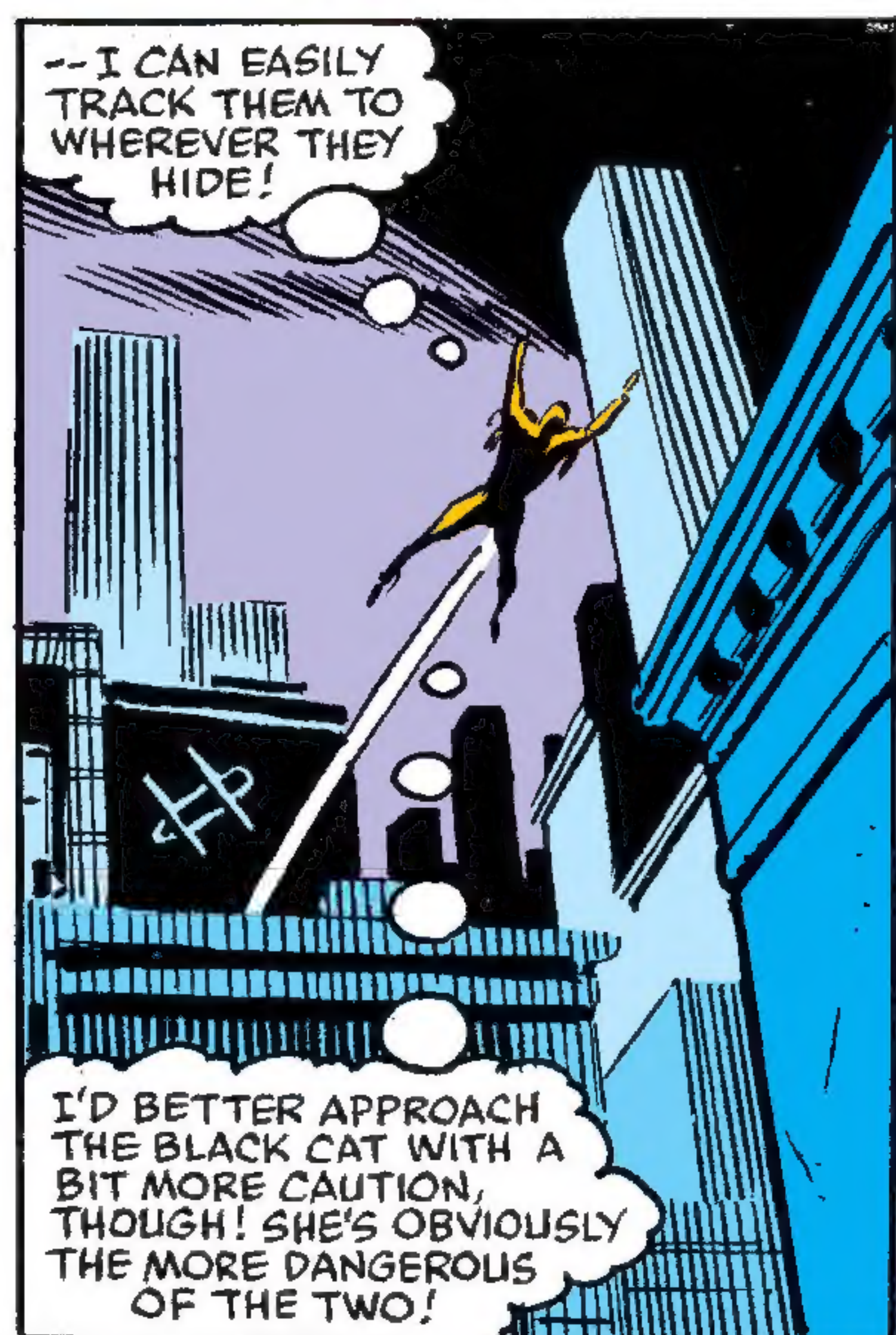
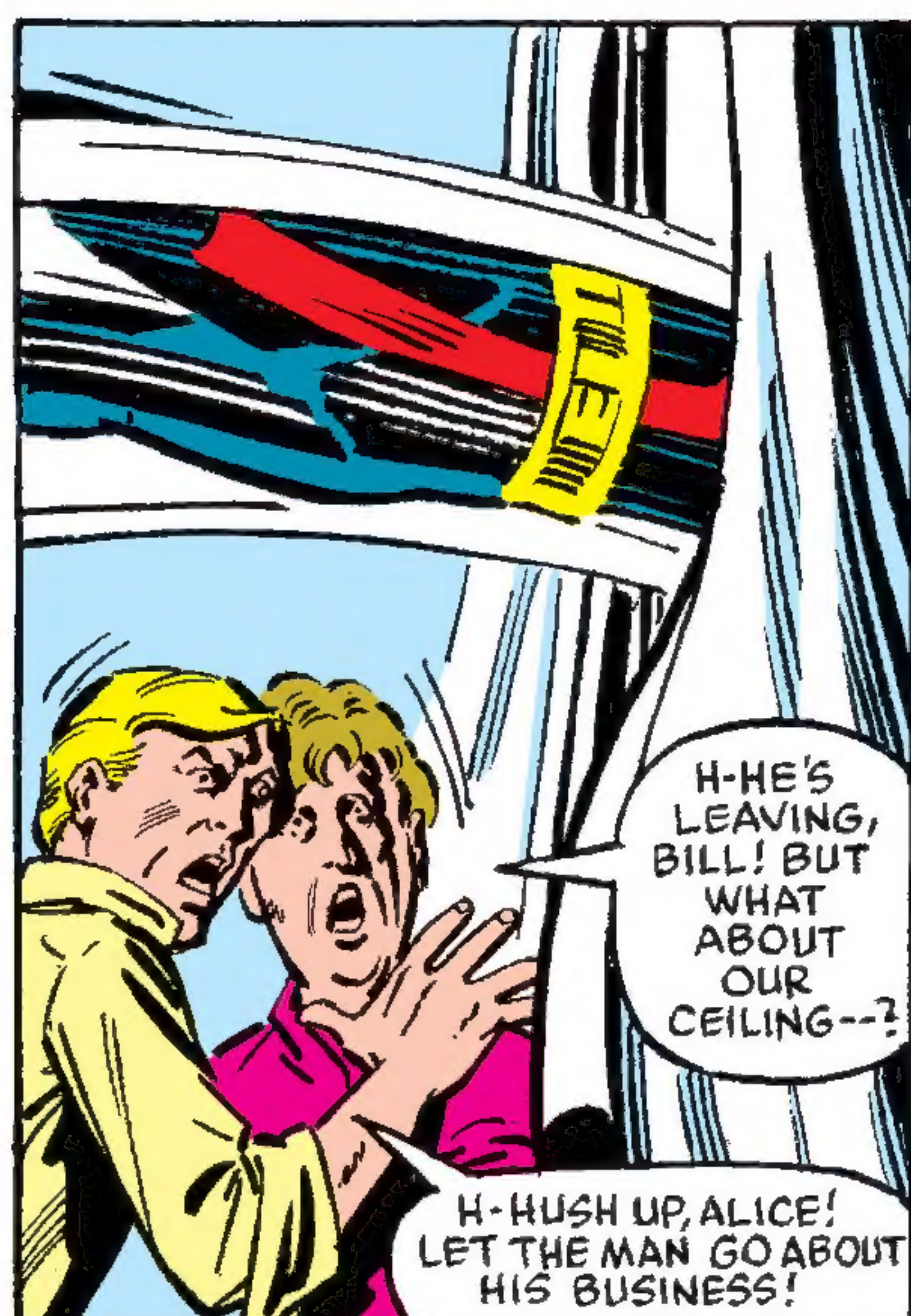
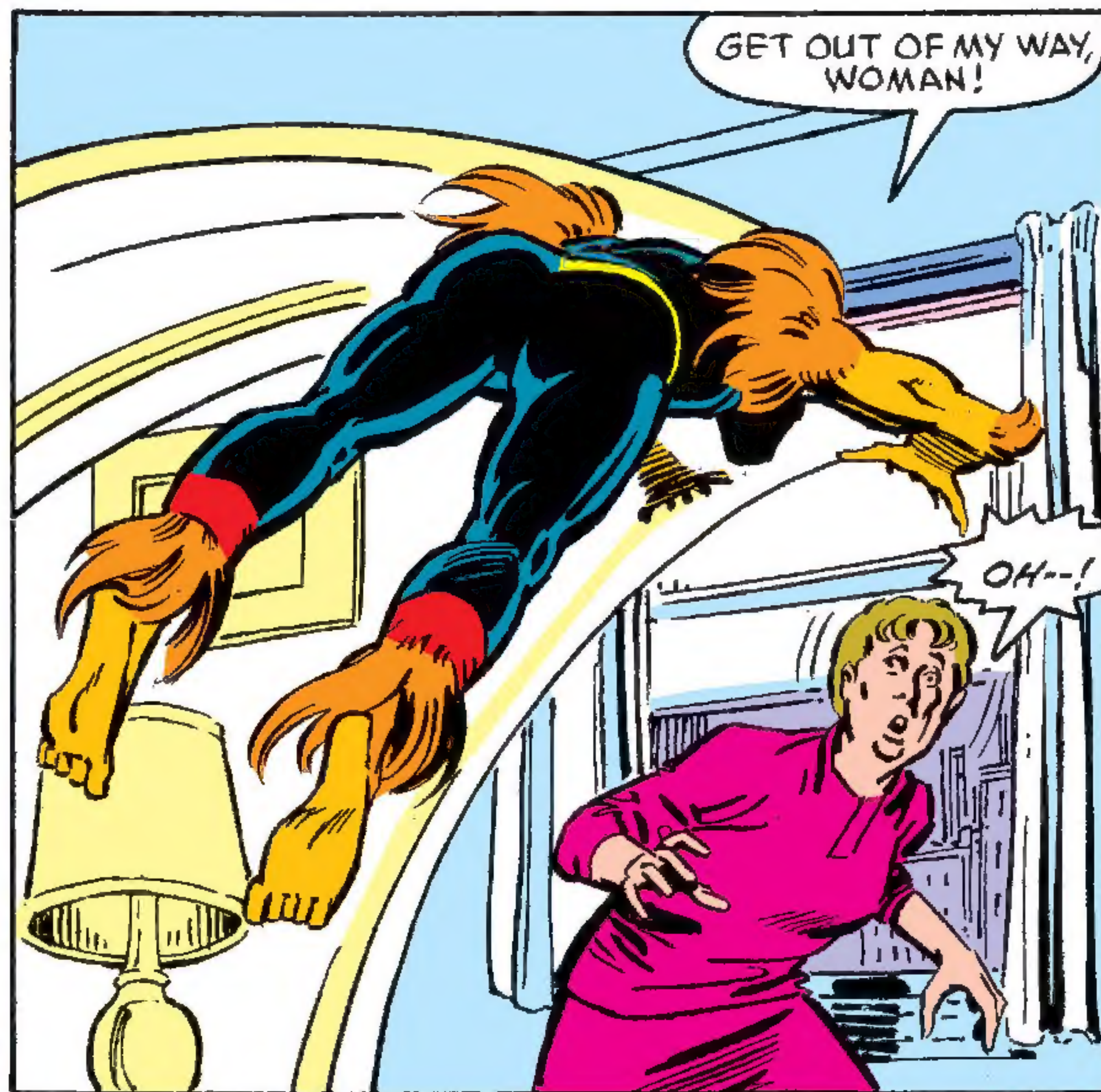
NO, BUT I CAN TRY!

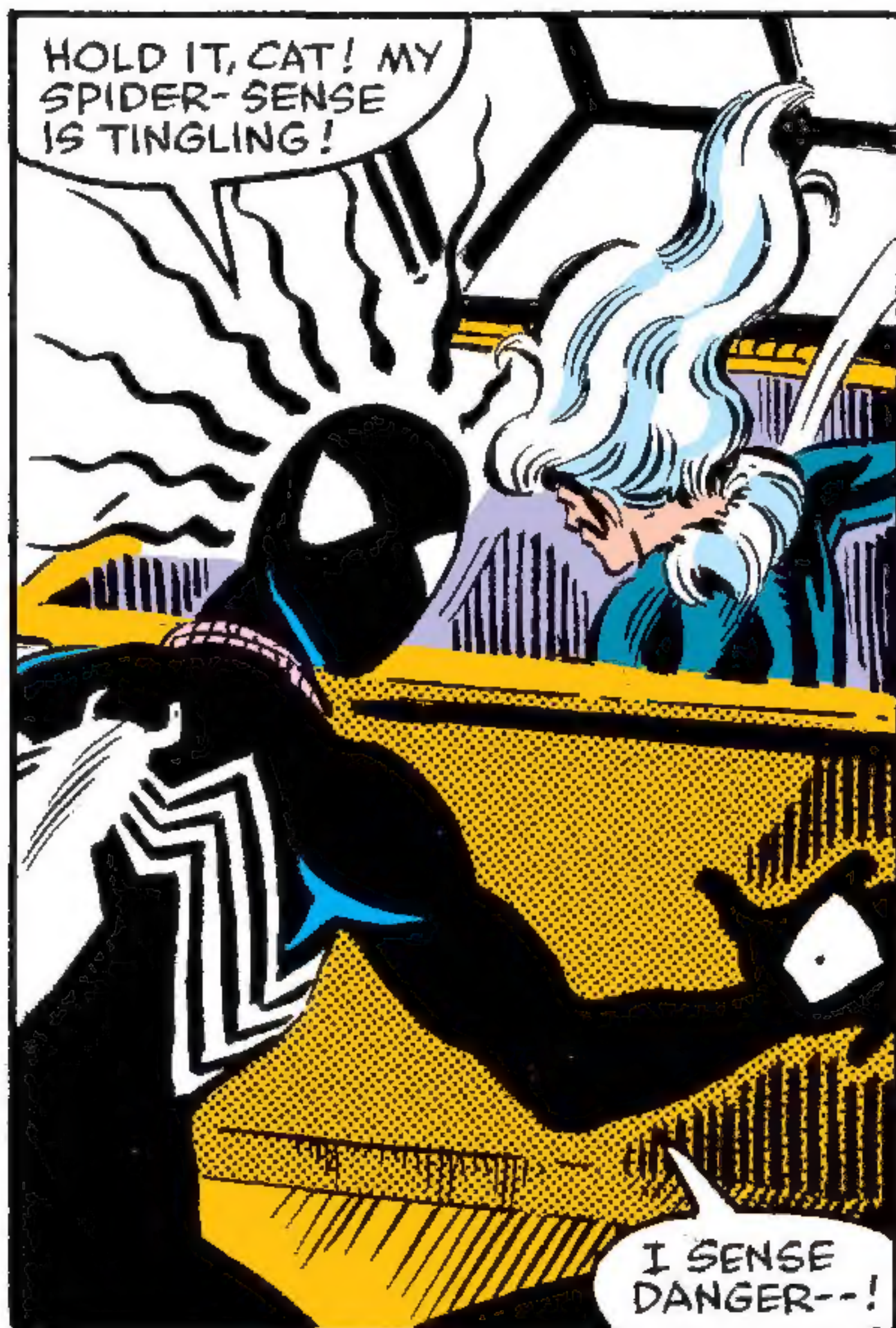


MINUTES LATER...

POOR SPIDER! HE'S PUTTING UP A BRAVE FRONT FOR MY SAKE, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS THAT HE'S IN GREAT PAIN!

HANG ON, LOVER! YOUR APARTMENT IS ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY!





HOLD IT, CAT! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING!

I SENSE DANGER--!



WHAT COULD IT BE--?

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY! MAYBE I'M JUST JUMPY.

HE'S FAST--! I BARELY GOT DOWN IN TIME!



NO NEED TO CONTINUE THIS BATTLE NOW! I'M ONLY BEING PAID TO KILL SPIDER-MAN. WHY SHOULD I KILL THE CAT FOR FREE?

I'LL RETURN LATER ...AFTER I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO REFRESH MYSELF!



MEANWHILE... EASY DOES IT, LOVER. YOU'RE HOME NOW.

YEAH...

THANKS, CAT. I MIGHT NOT HAVE MADE IT WITHOUT YOU.



MY ARM'S STILL THROBBING.

BUT AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO WRESTLE WITH MY COSTUME TO GET A LOOK AT IT! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS--



UNNN! SPIDER--! WHAT IS IT?

MY COSTUME--!

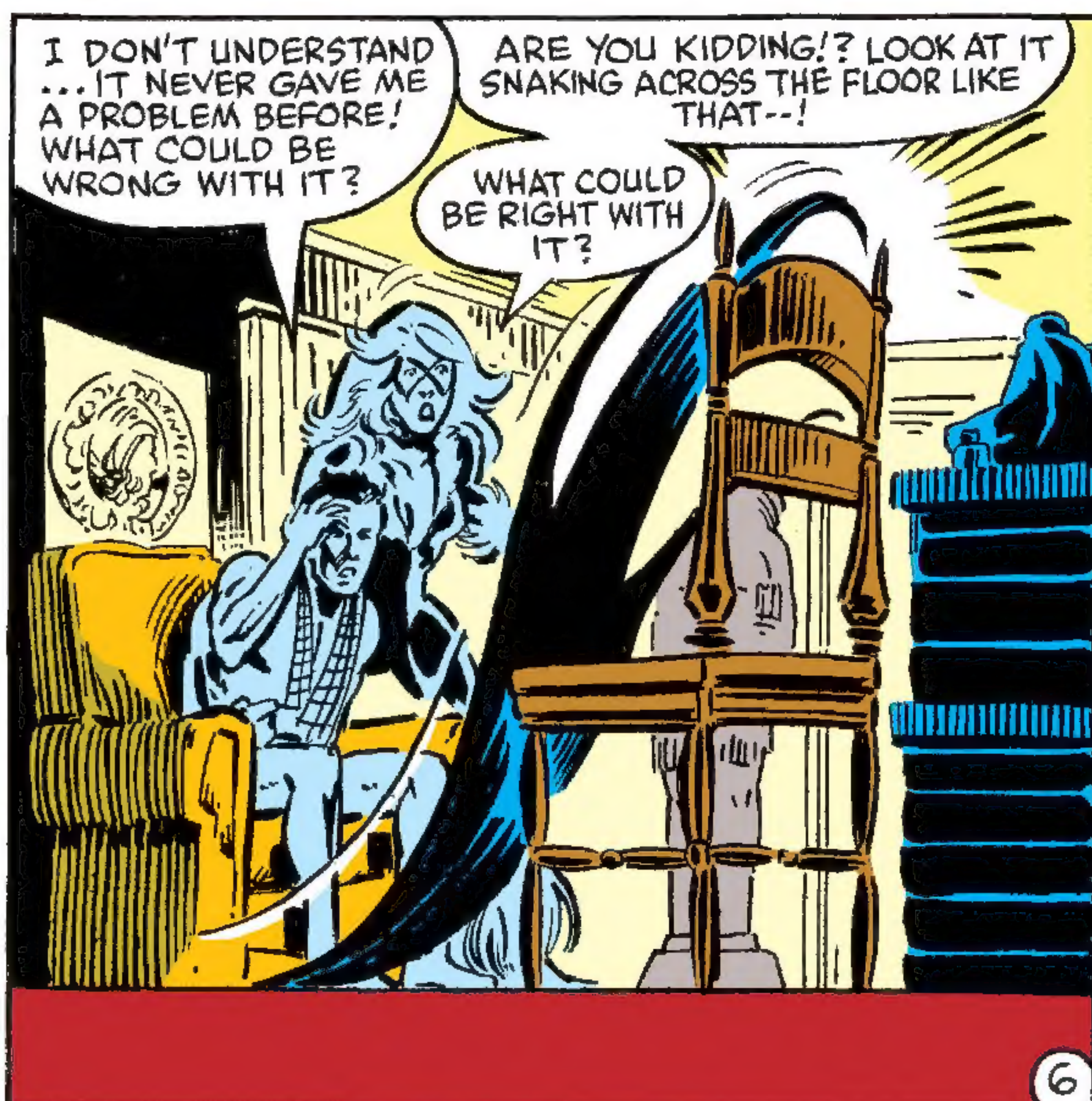
IT USUALLY OBEYS MY EVERY THOUGHT, BUT IT'S NOT RESPONDING TO MY MENTAL COMMANDS--!



I CAN'T SEEM TO GET IT TO LEAVE ME--!

UNNN!

AT LAST! IT'S STARTING TO MELT OFF ME...



I DON'T UNDERSTAND ...IT NEVER GAVE ME A PROBLEM BEFORE! WHAT COULD BE WRONG WITH IT?

ARE YOU KIDDING!? LOOK AT IT SNAKING ACROSS THE FLOOR LIKE THAT--!

WHAT COULD BE RIGHT WITH IT?

YOU'VE BEEN MEANING TO GET IT CHECKED OUT BY REED RICHARDS EVER SINCE YOU BROUGHT IT BACK FROM THAT WAR AT THE OTHER END OF THE UNIVERSE!

I KNOW. BUT MY LIFE HAS BEEN SO CRAZY LATELY THAT I HAVEN'T HAD TIME.

MAYBE YOU'D BETTER MAKE TIME.

**SEE THE ONGOING MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS LIMITED SERIES FOR DETAILS -- DANNY.*

HEY! MY ARM DOESN'T LOOK A' BAD AS I FEEL! ED--!

IT'LL PROBABLY BE AWFUL SORE FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, BUT THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE!

THAT'S GREAT!

WHAT A DUMP! I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE MY SPIDER REALLY LIVES HERE IN HIS CIVILIAN IDENTITY!

GUESS I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND SPIDER. WHY WOULD HE EVER WANT TO BE A NORMAL PERSON LIKE PETER PARKER, WHEN HE COULD BE SPIDER-MAN ALL THE TIME?

I LOVE HIM. I DO! BUT NOW THAT HE'S TAKEN OFF HIS MASK, I CAN HARDLY BEAR TO LOOK AT HIM...

MEANWHILE, AT A MIDTOWN MANHATTAN SKYSCRAPER...

AS PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS...

...I HAVE BEGUN MAKING THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR A PROLONGED GANG WAR WITH THE FORCES OF MICAH SYNN!*

EXCELLENT. I LEAVE THE DETAILS TO YOU!

**SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF DAREDEVIL -- DANNY.*

ONE LAST ITEM-- AS THE KINGPIN OF CRIME, THE RULER OF THE UNDERWORLD, YOU MUST BE MADE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT SOMEONE IN YOUR EMPLOY HAS HIRED A PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN TO ELIMINATE SPIDER-MAN!

WHAT--?!

I HAVE MY OWN PLANS FOR THE WEB-SWINGER!*

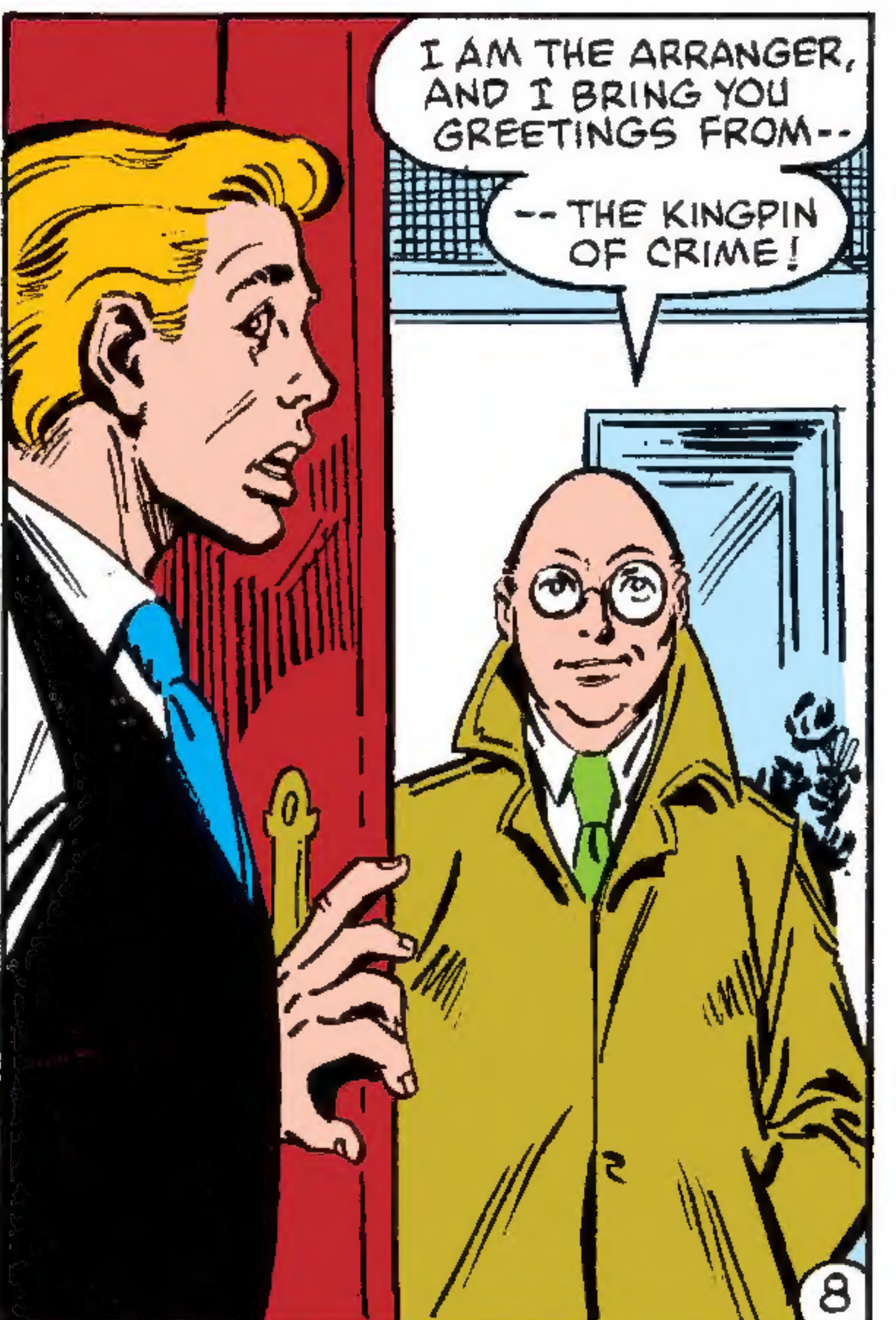
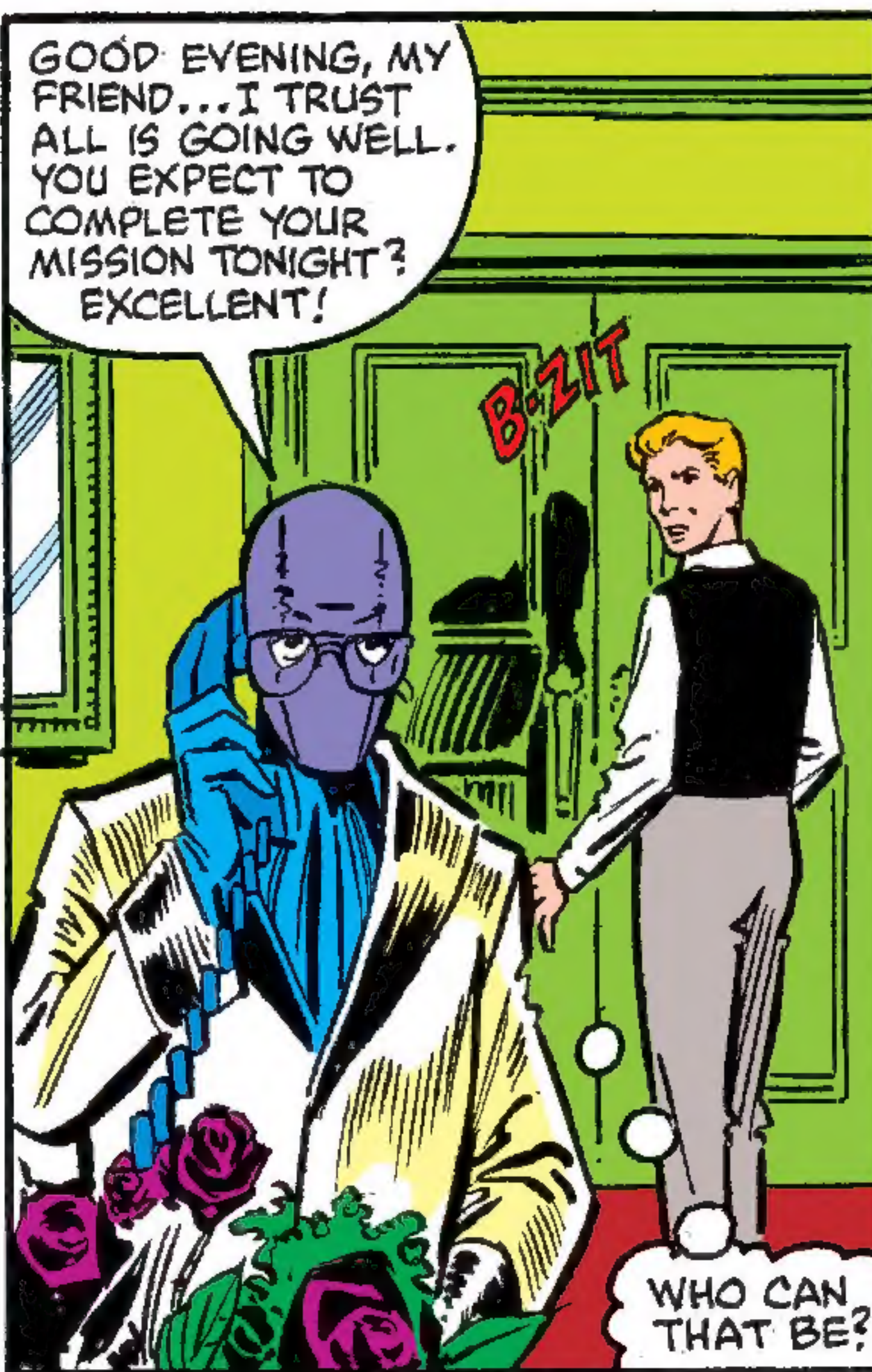
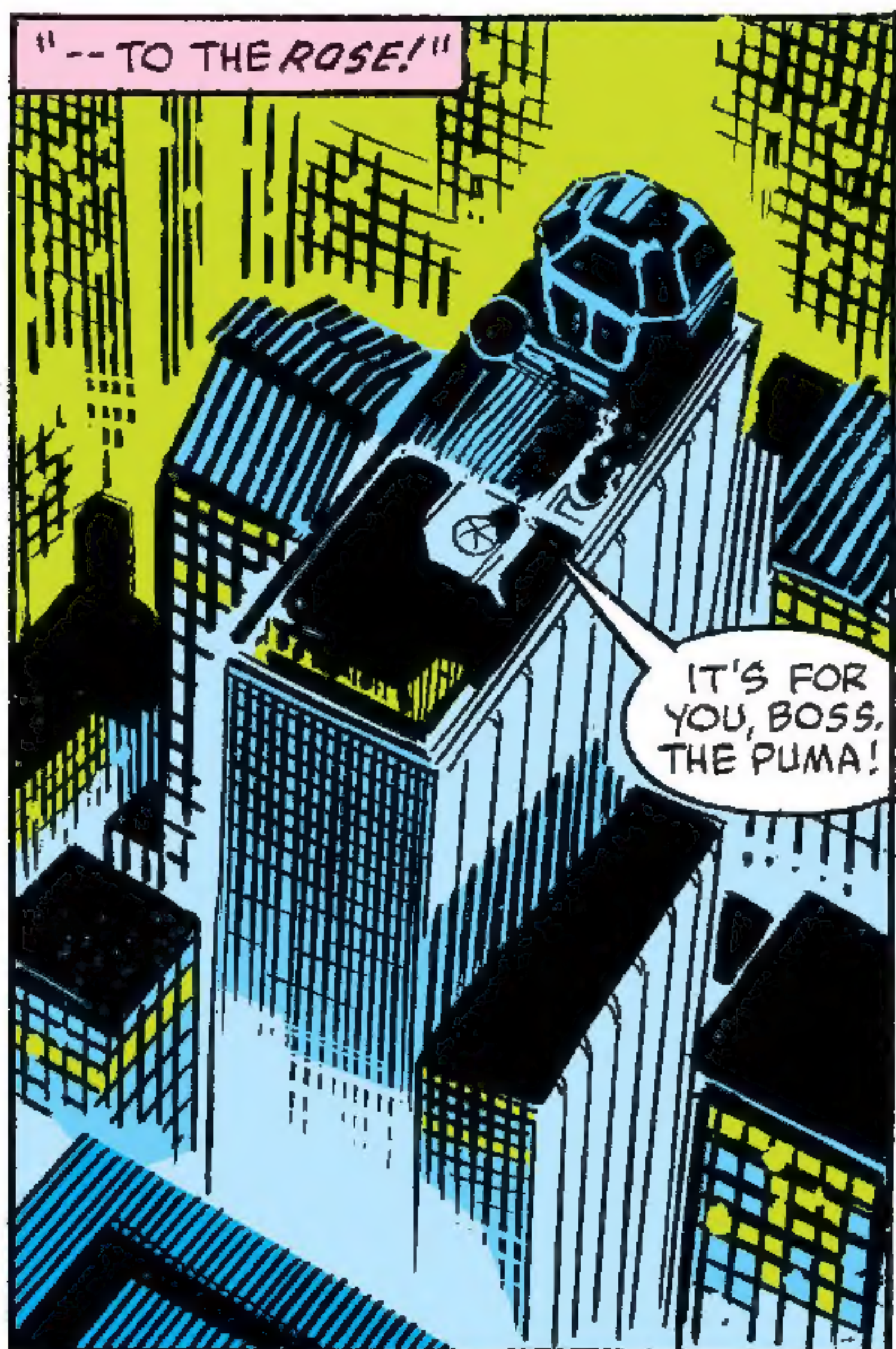
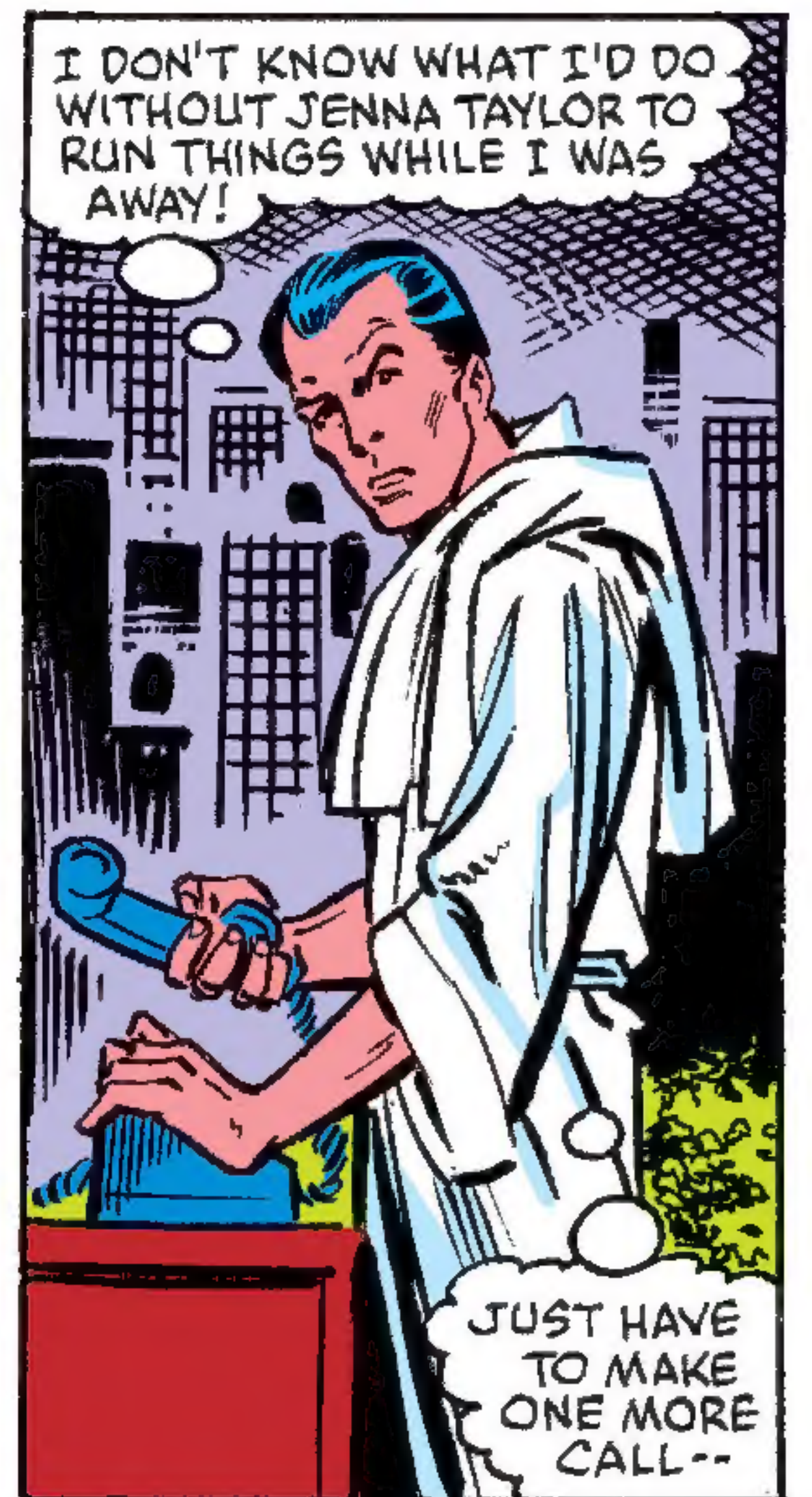
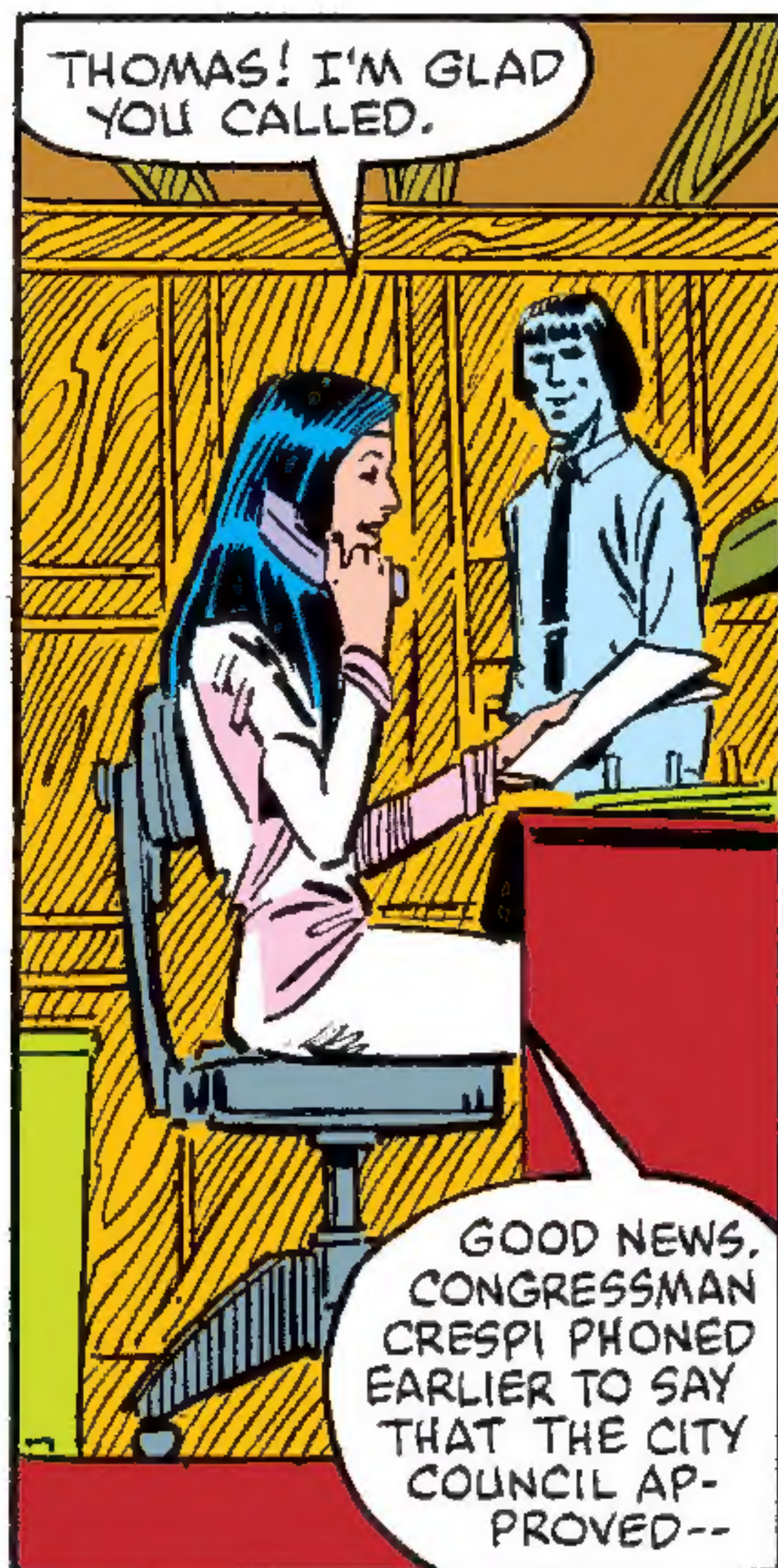
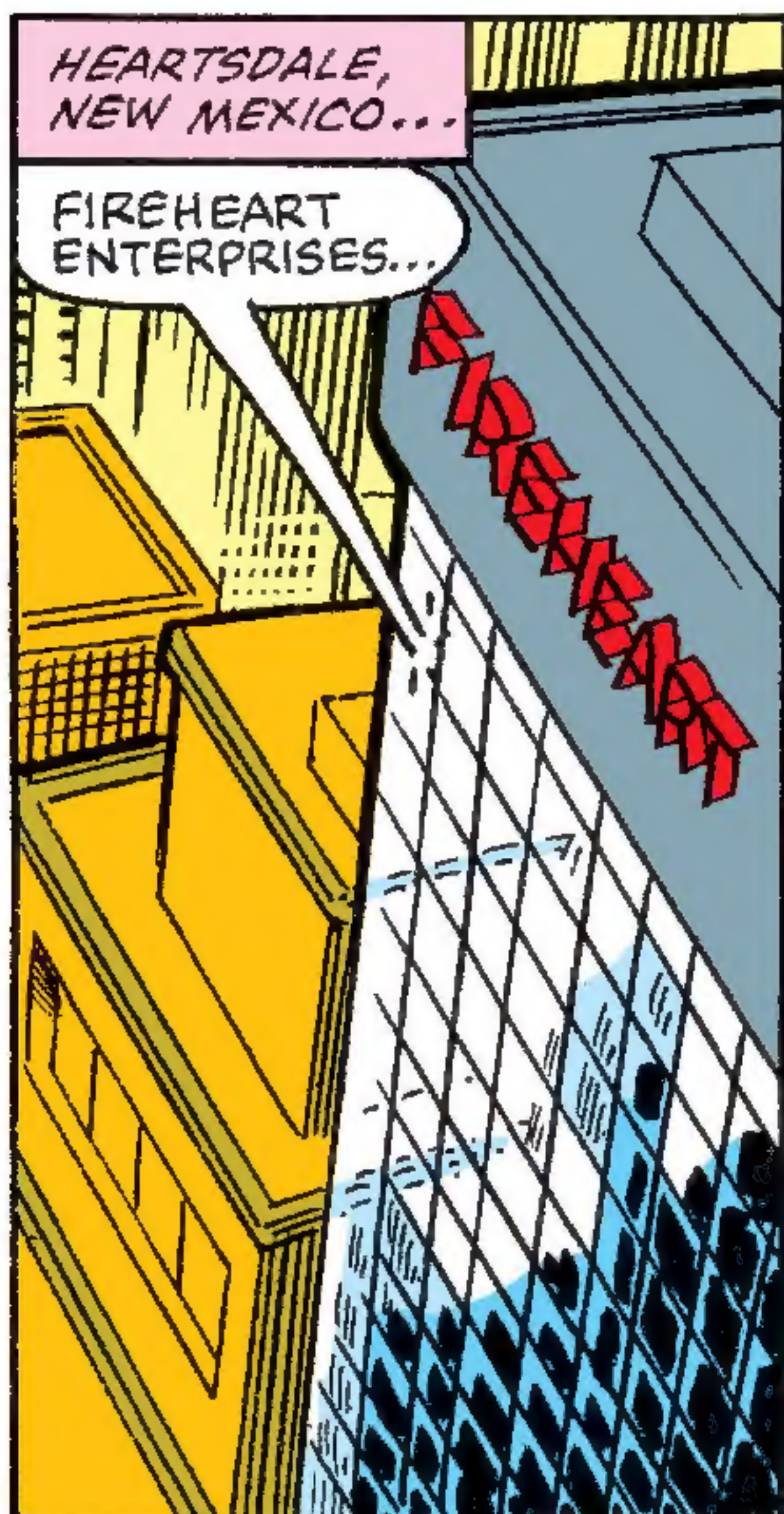
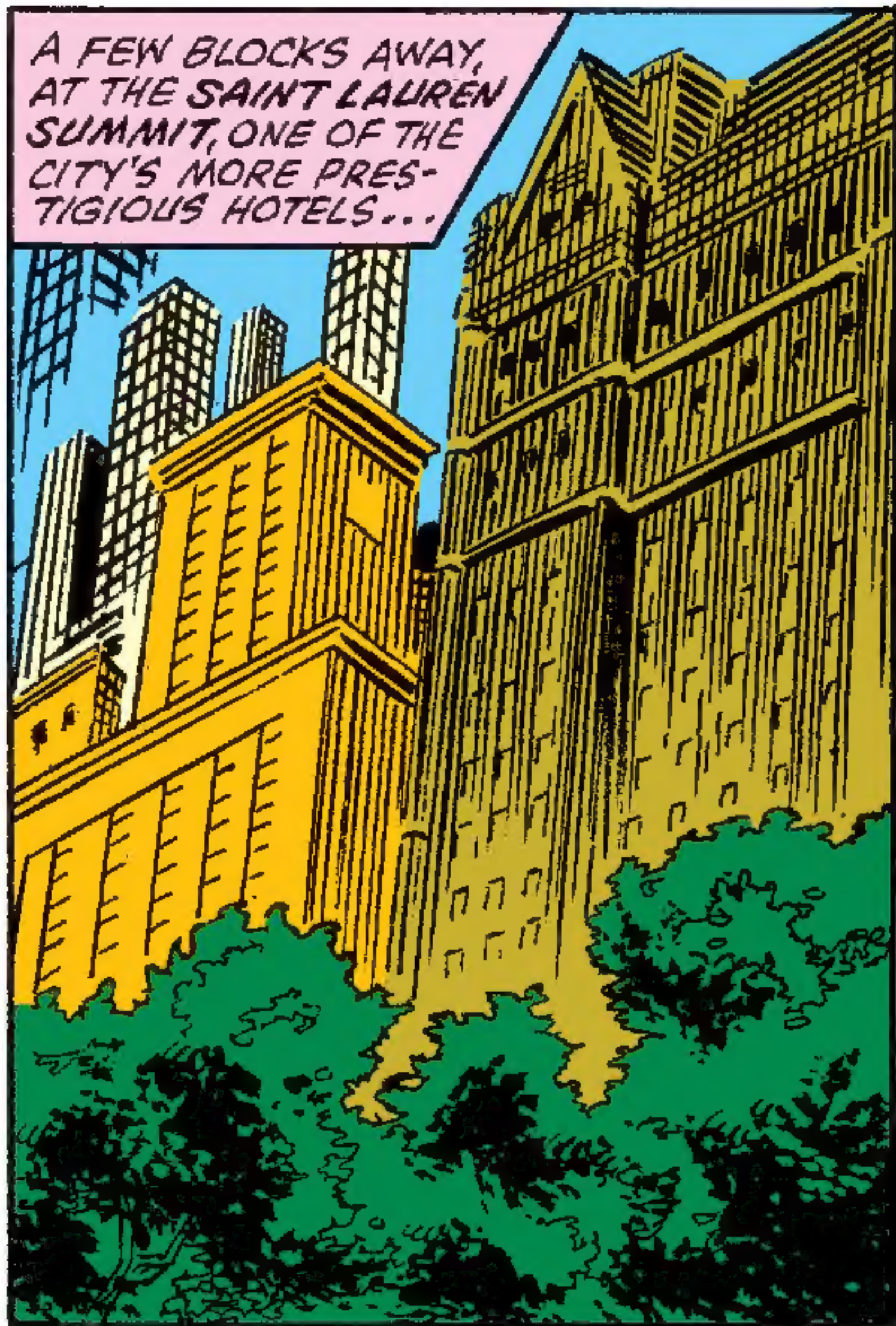
WHO WOULD DARE ORDER AN EXECUTION OF THIS MAGNITUDE-- WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING WITH ME?

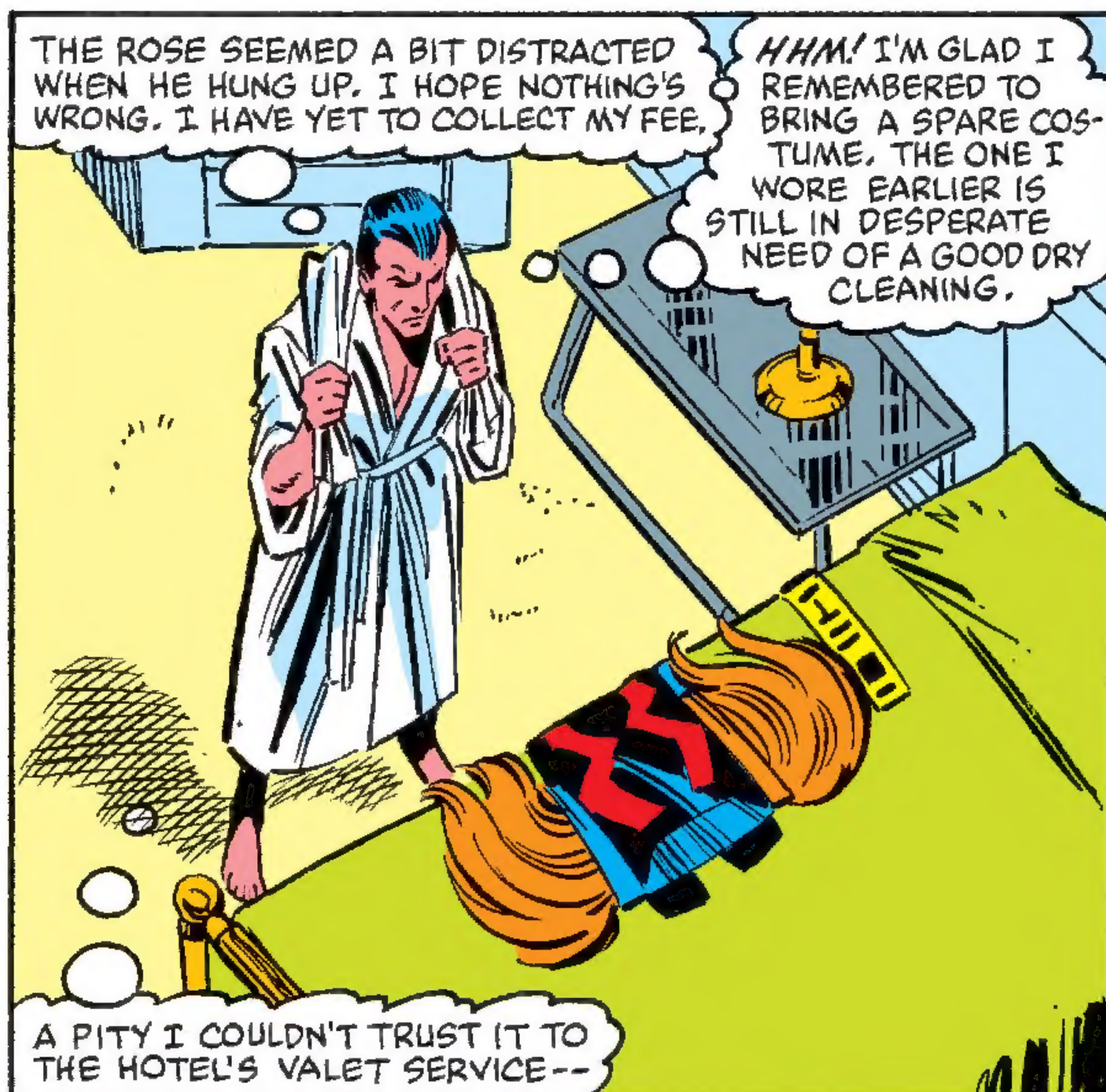
I BELIEVE THIS HIT WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE ROSE!

**AND YOU'LL KNOW WHAT PLANS THE KINGPIN IS REFERRING TO, IF YOU KEEP READING OUR COMPANION MAGAZINE, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN-- D.*

ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN ME AND THE ROSE. IT'S TIME HE LEARNED THE FACTS OF LIFE...

...AND DEATH!

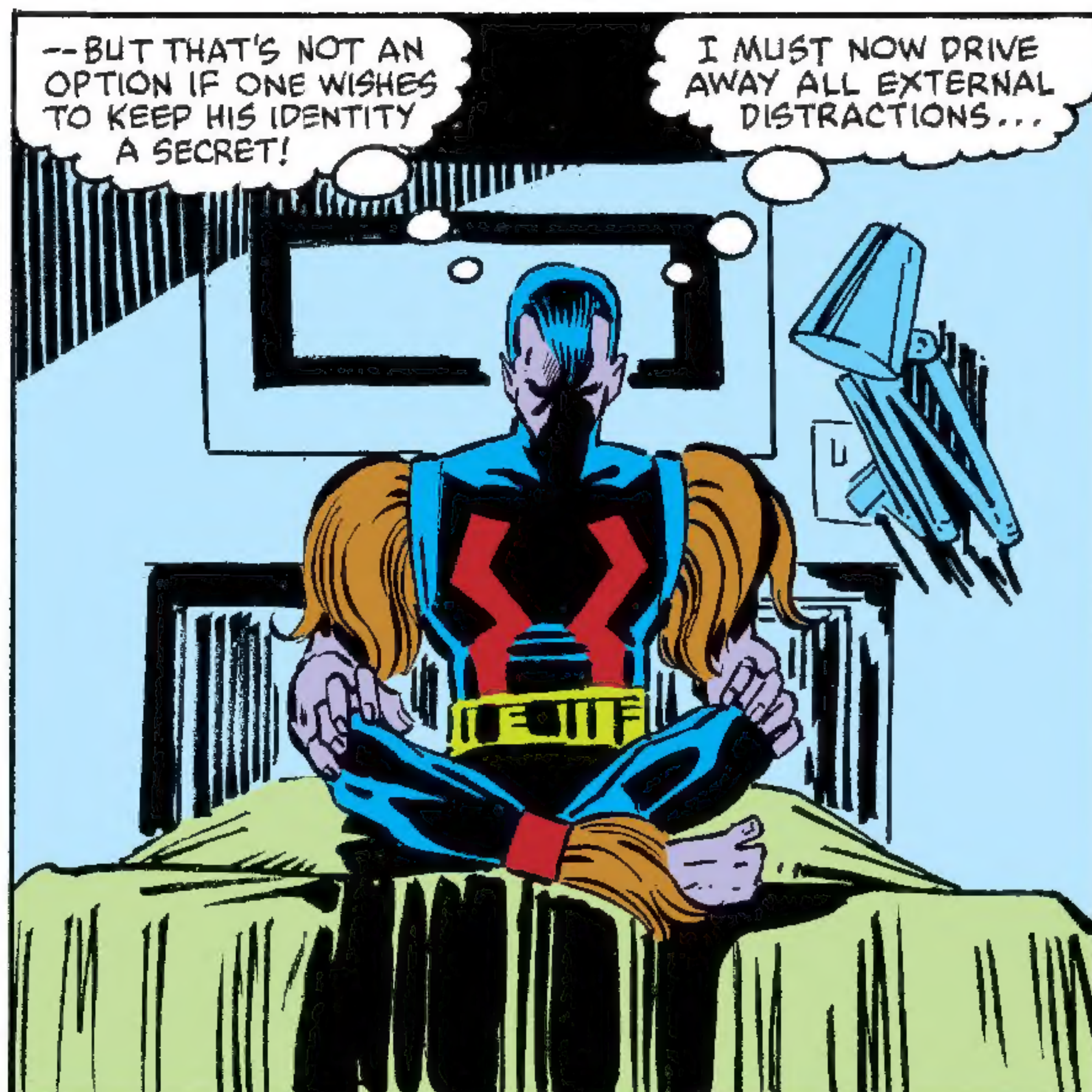




THE ROSE SEEMED A BIT DISTRACTED WHEN HE HUNG UP. I HOPE NOTHING'S WRONG. I HAVE YET TO COLLECT MY FEE.

HHM! I'M GLAD I REMEMBERED TO BRING A SPARE COSTUME. THE ONE I WORE EARLIER IS STILL IN DESPERATE NEED OF A GOOD DRY CLEANING.

A PITY I COULDN'T TRUST IT TO THE HOTEL'S VALET SERVICE--



--BUT THAT'S NOT AN OPTION IF ONE WISHES TO KEEP HIS IDENTITY A SECRET!

I MUST NOW DRIVE AWAY ALL EXTERNAL DISTRACTIONS...



MUST MARSHAL ALL OF MY THOUGHTS AND FOCUS INWARD...



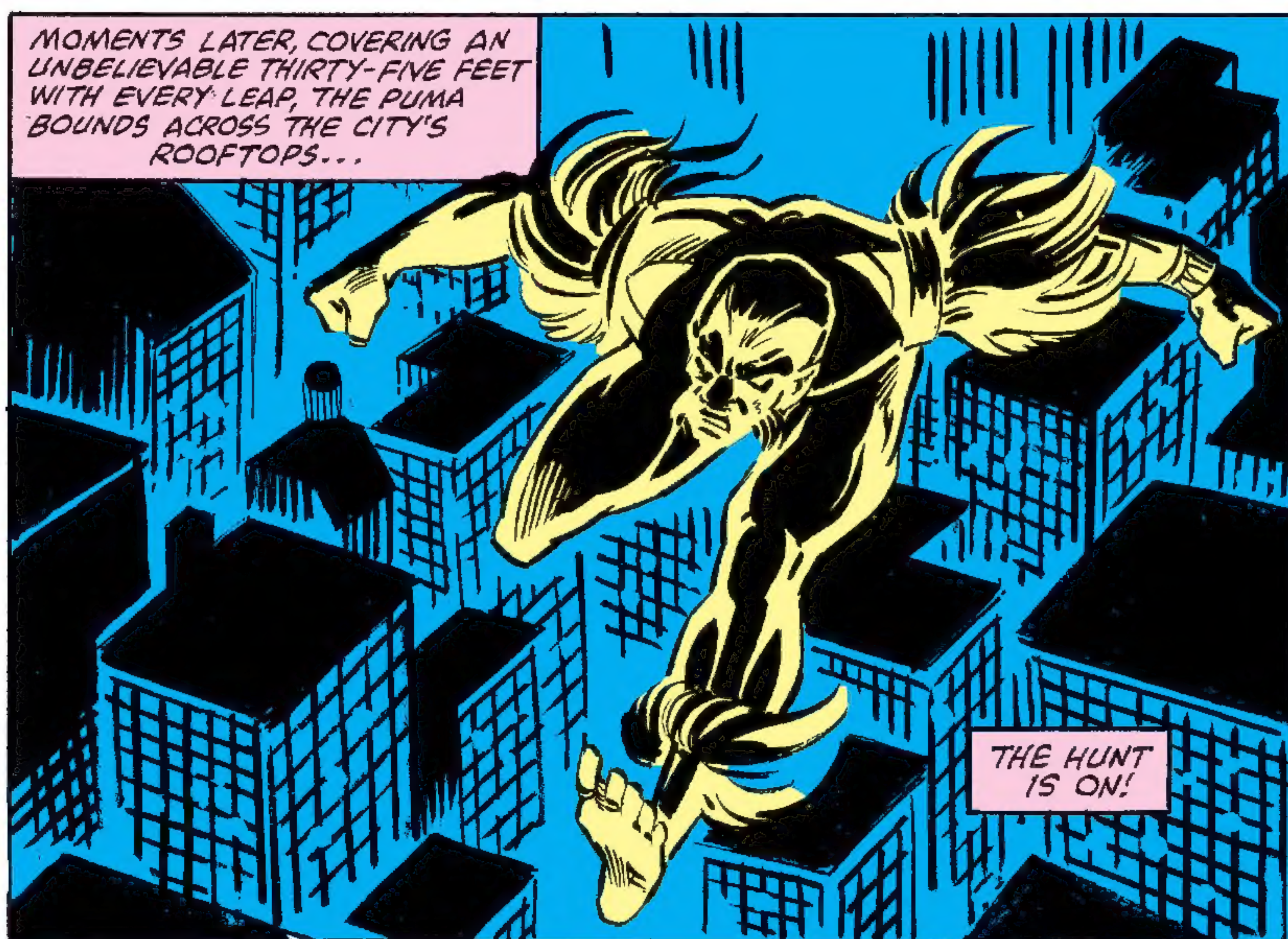
MUST CONCENTRATE...



CONCENTRATE...



≥ ARGGH ≤



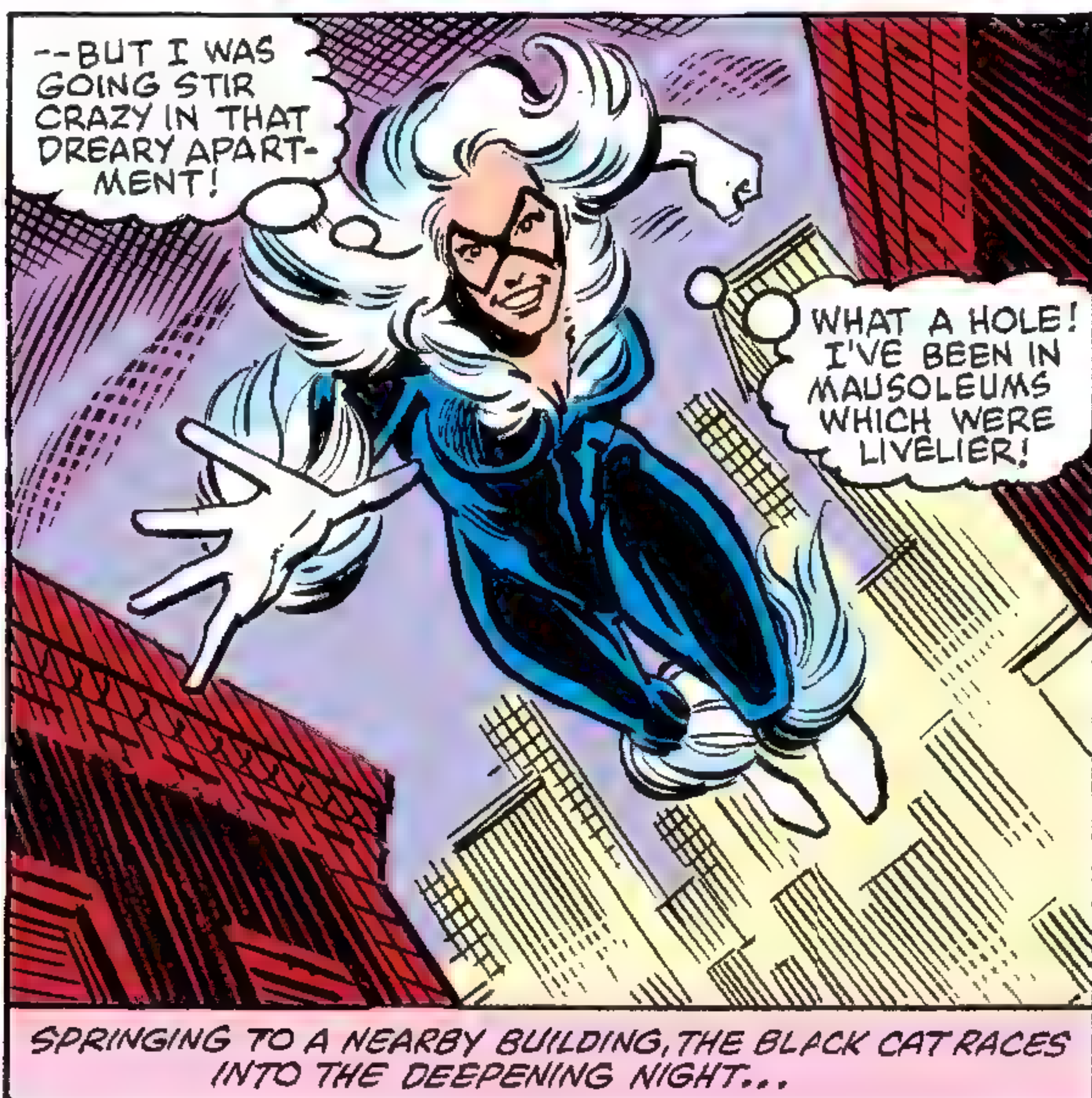
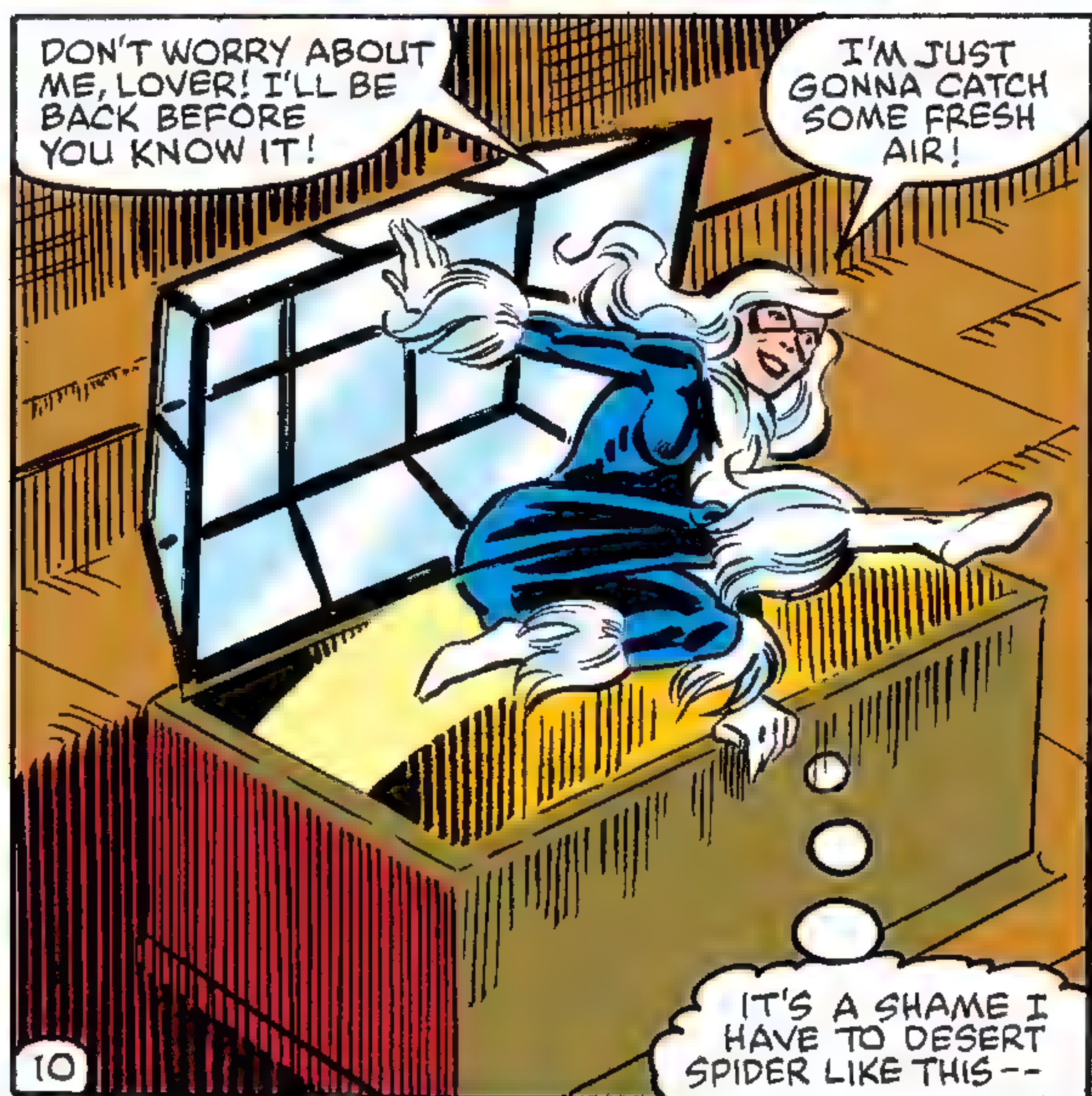
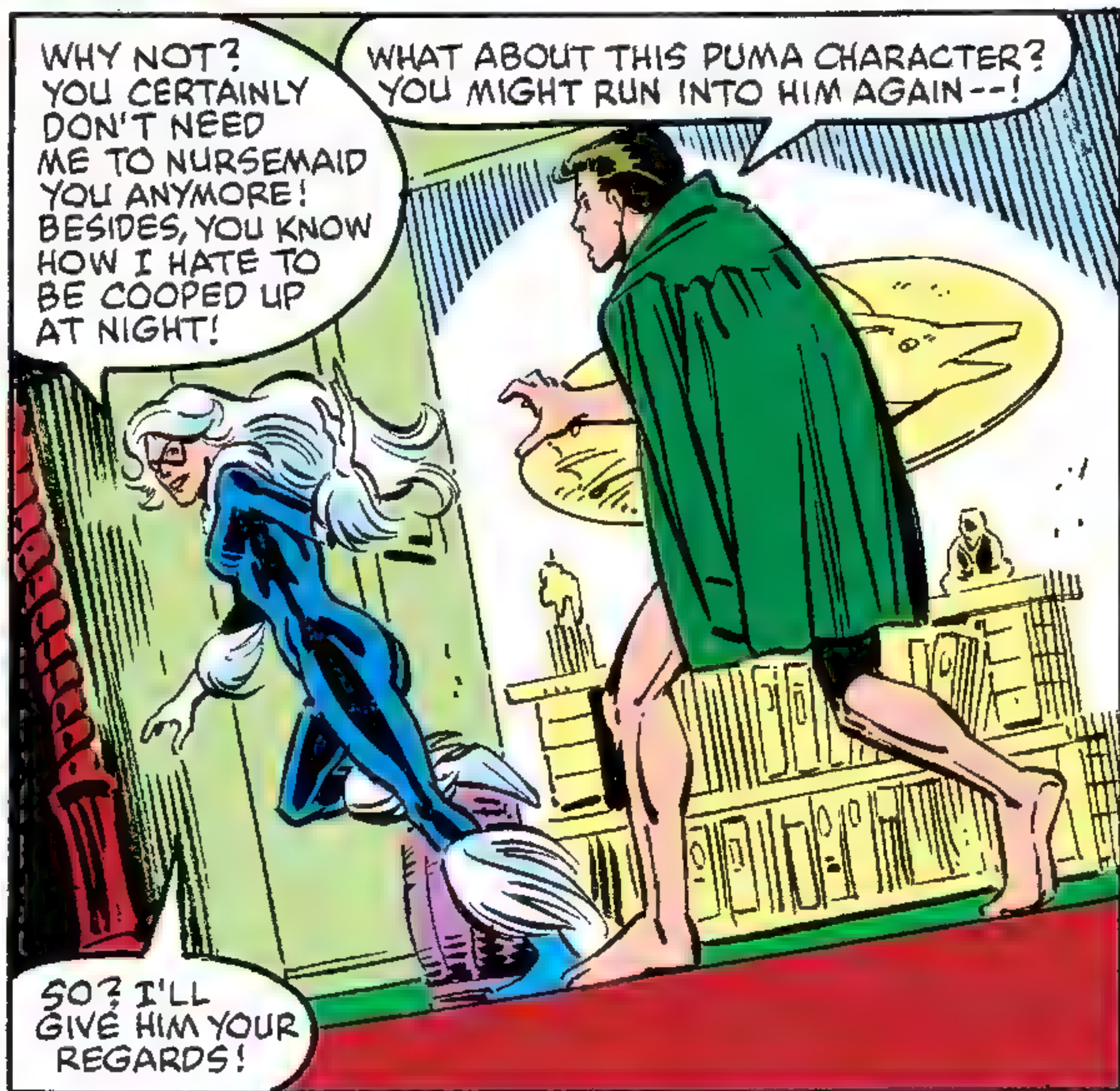
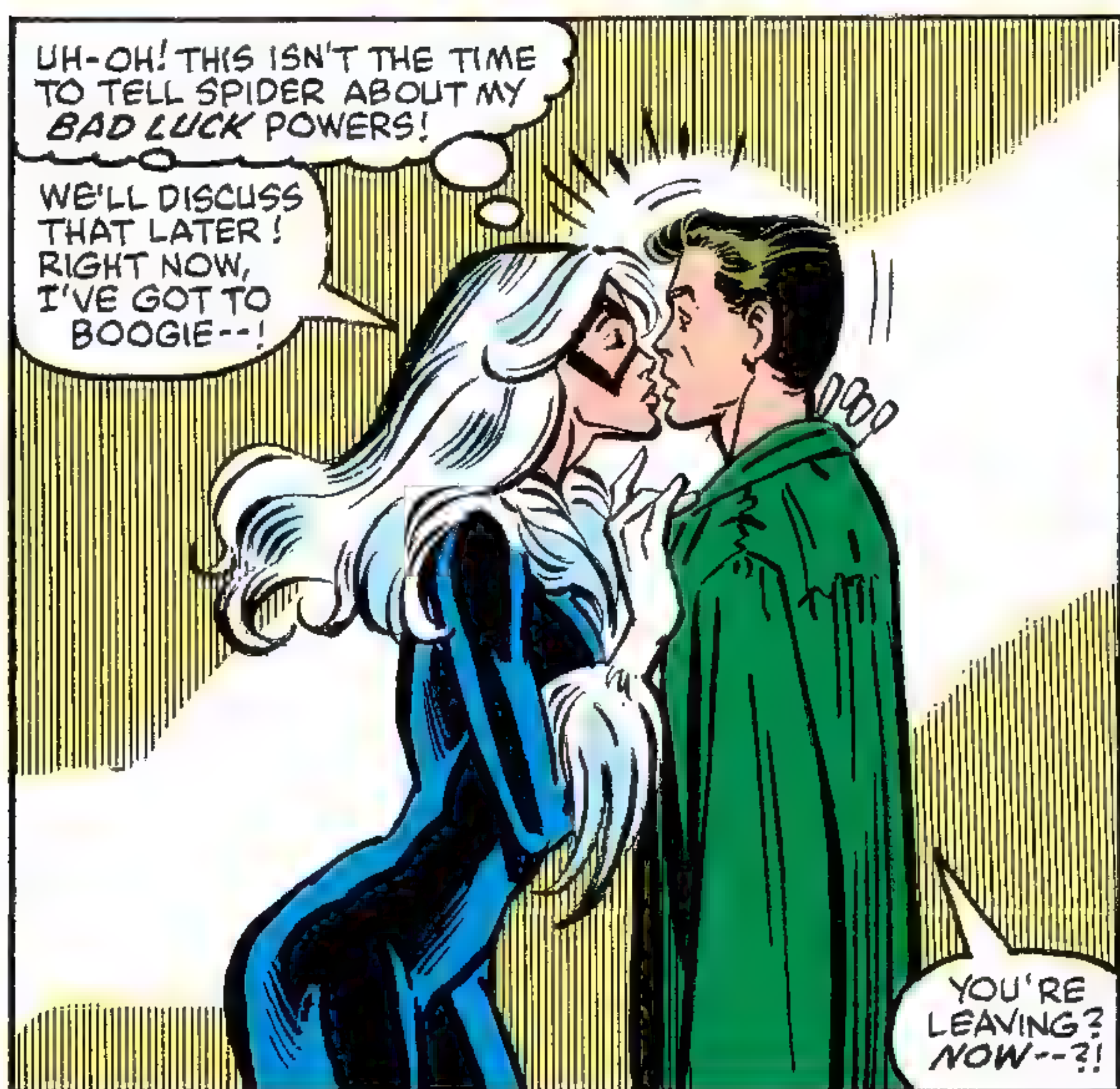
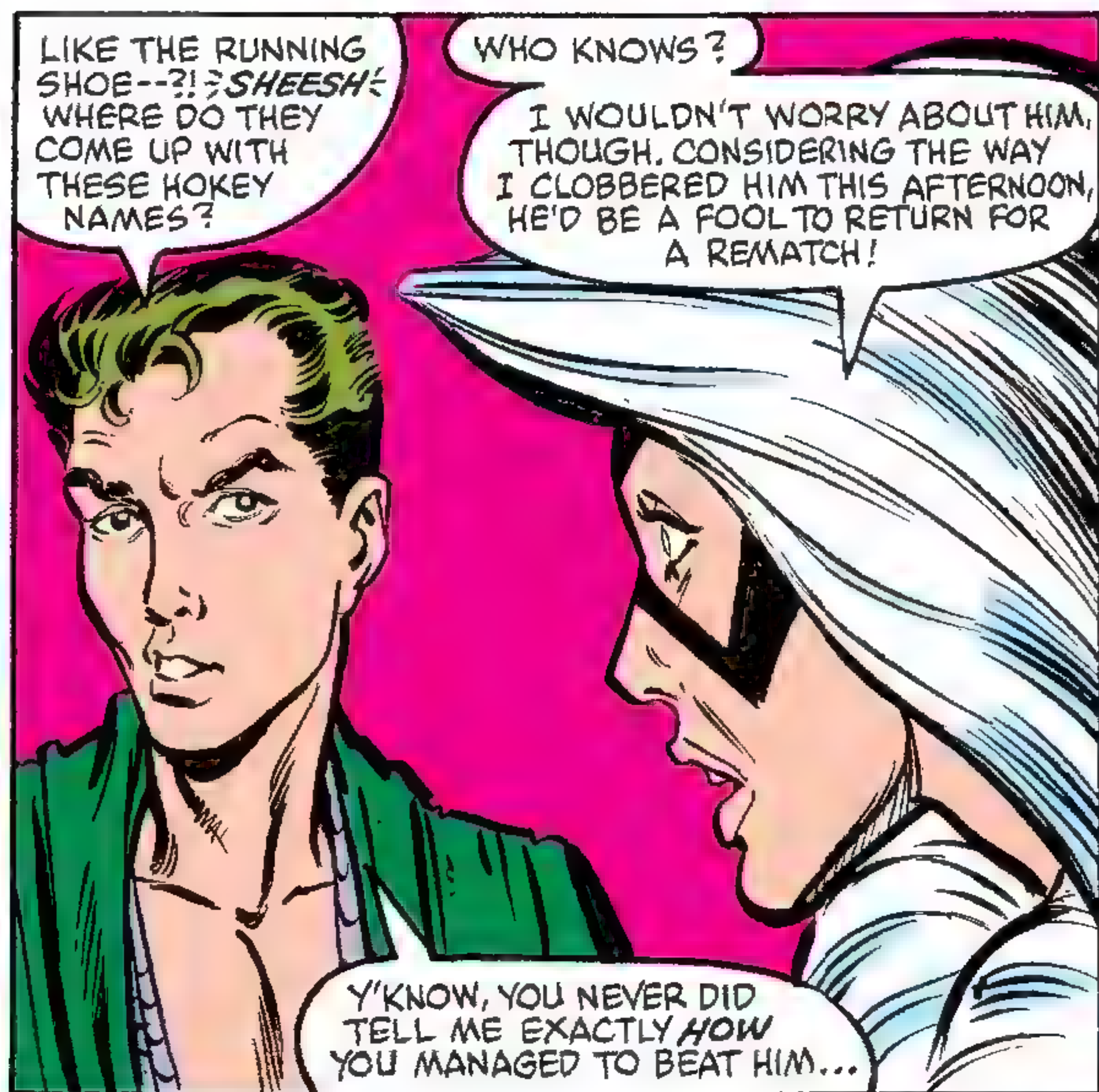
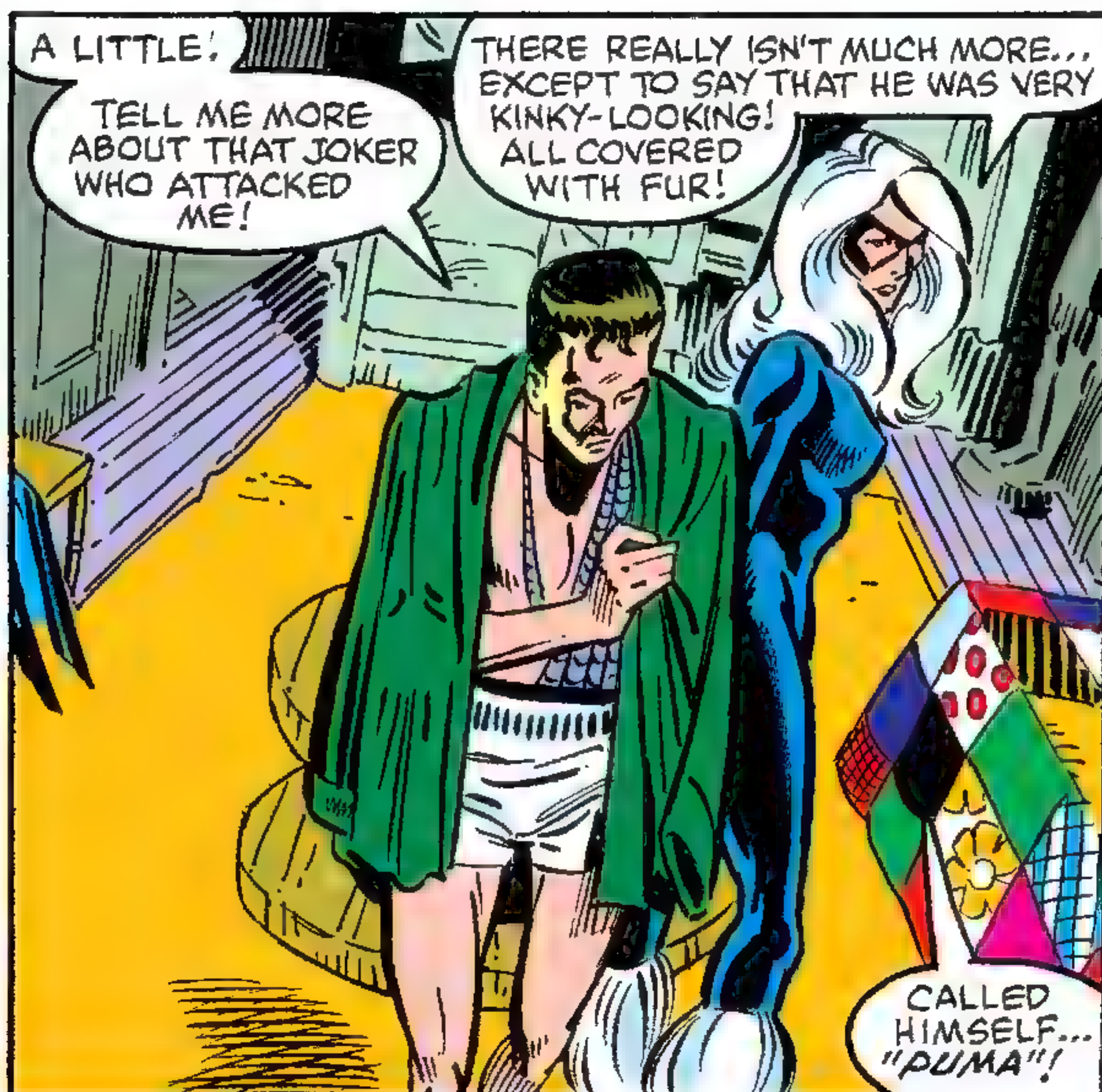
MOMENTS LATER, COVERING AN UNBELIEVABLE THIRTY-FIVE FEET WITH EVERY LEAP, THE PUMA BOUNDS ACROSS THE CITY'S ROOFTOPS...

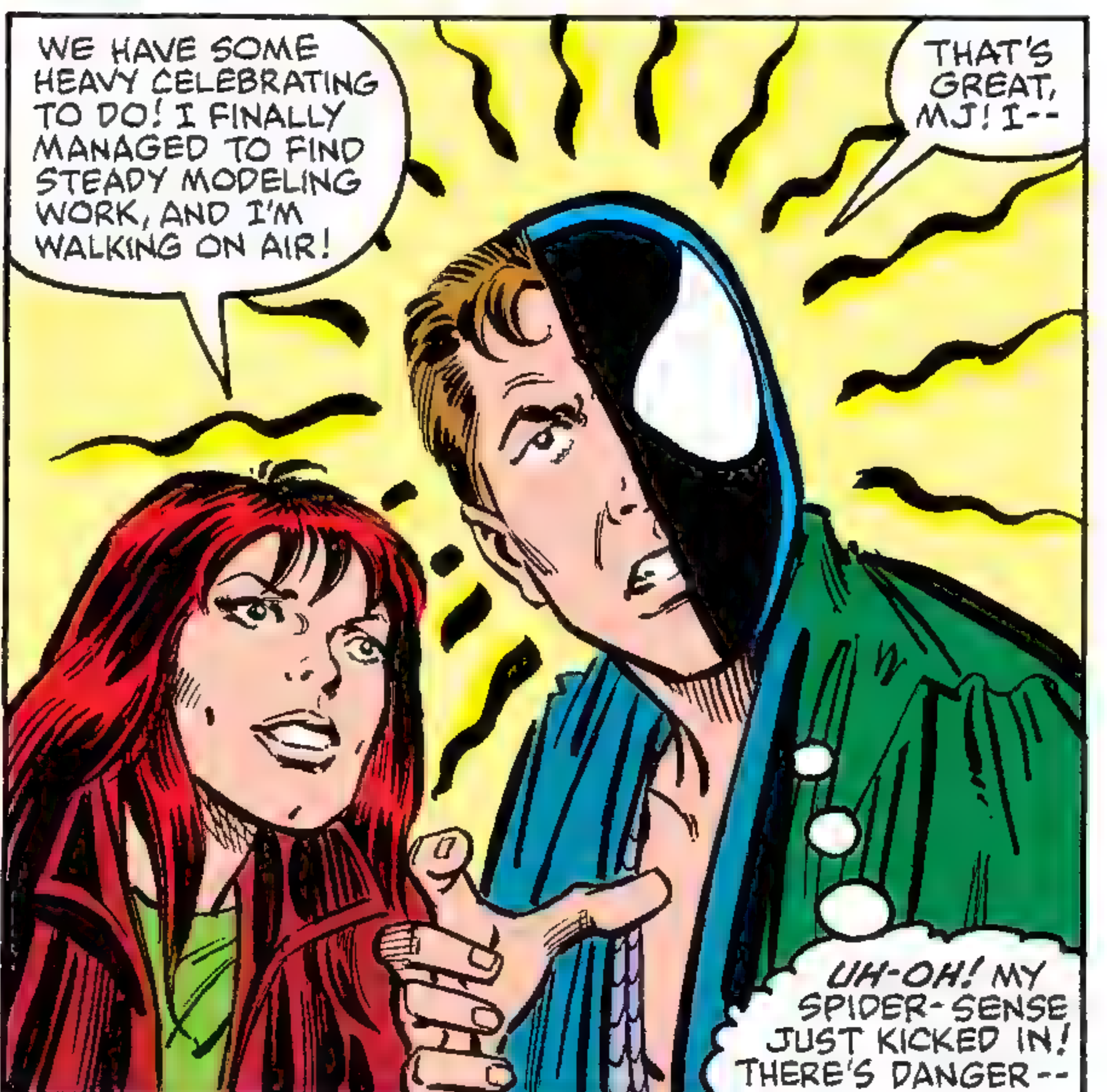
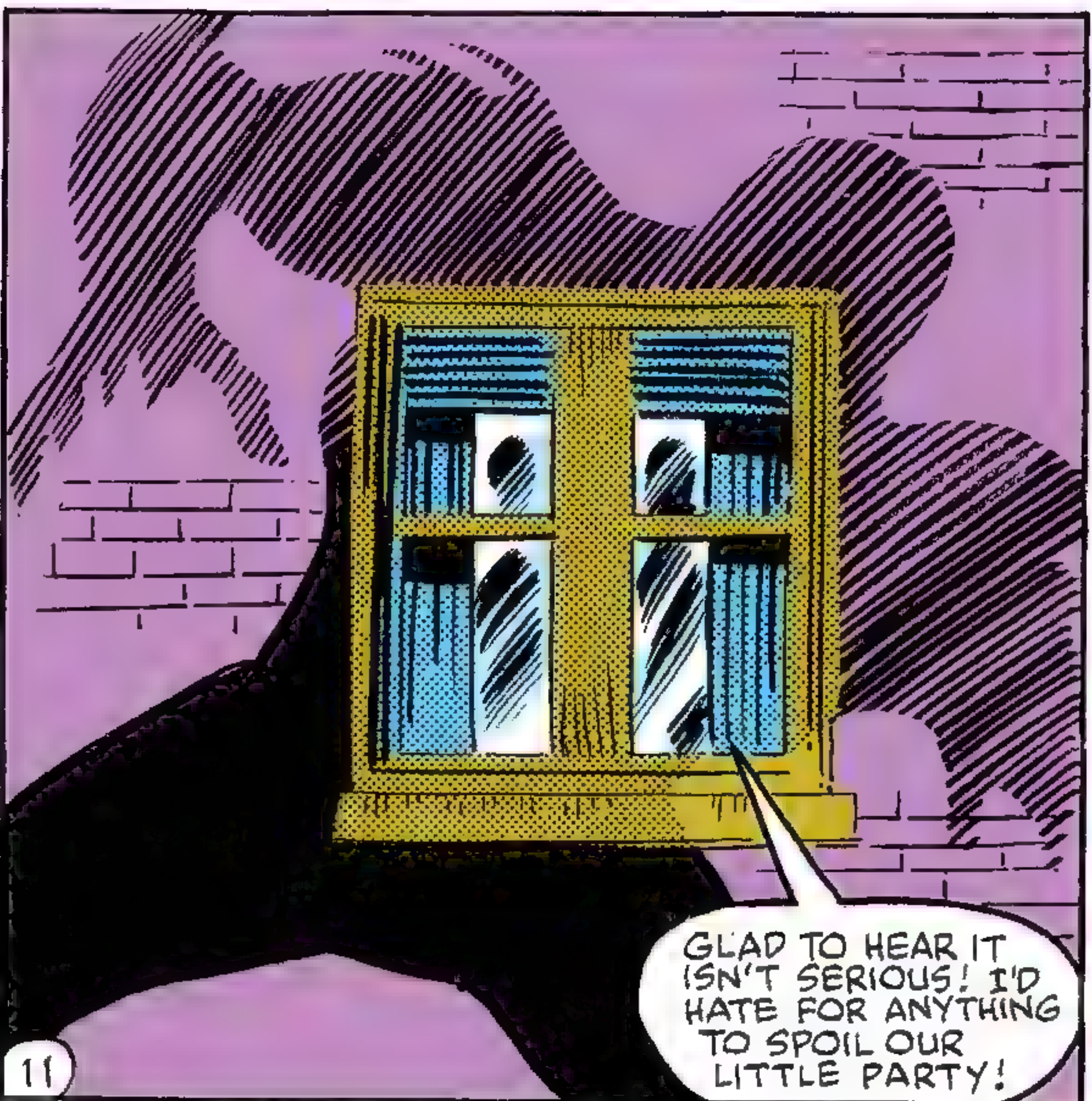
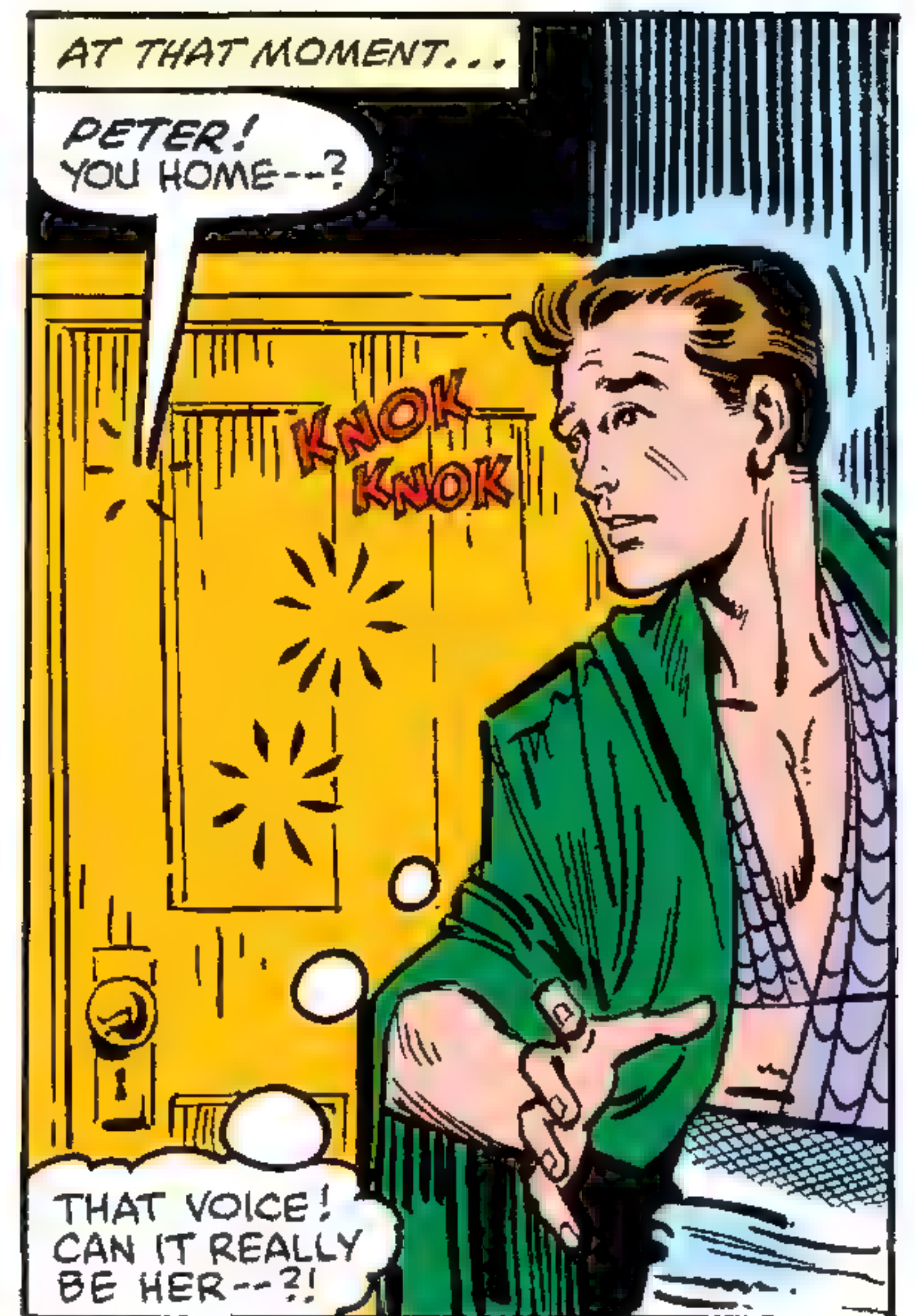
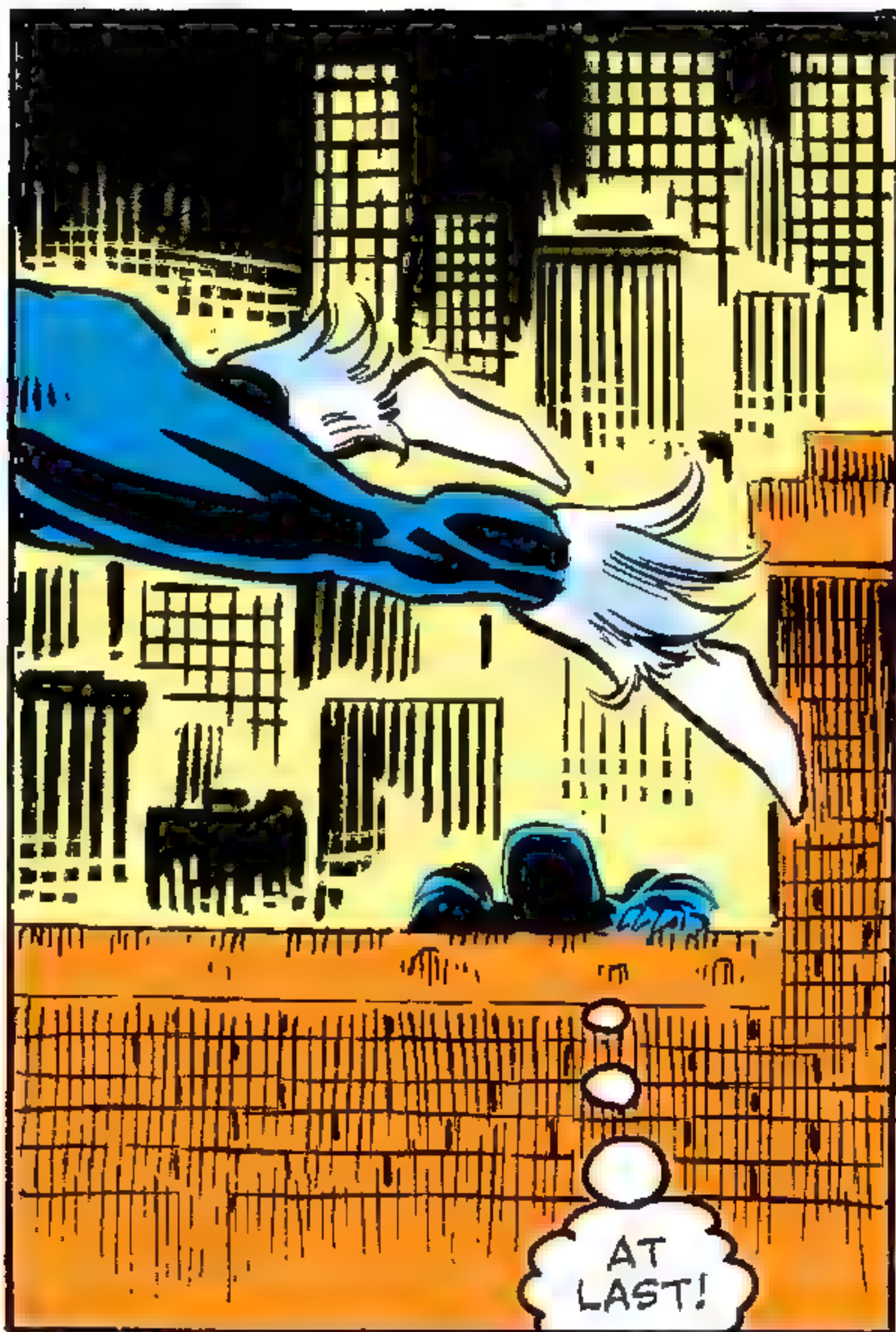
THE HUNT IS ON!



AND, AT 410 CHELSEA STREET...

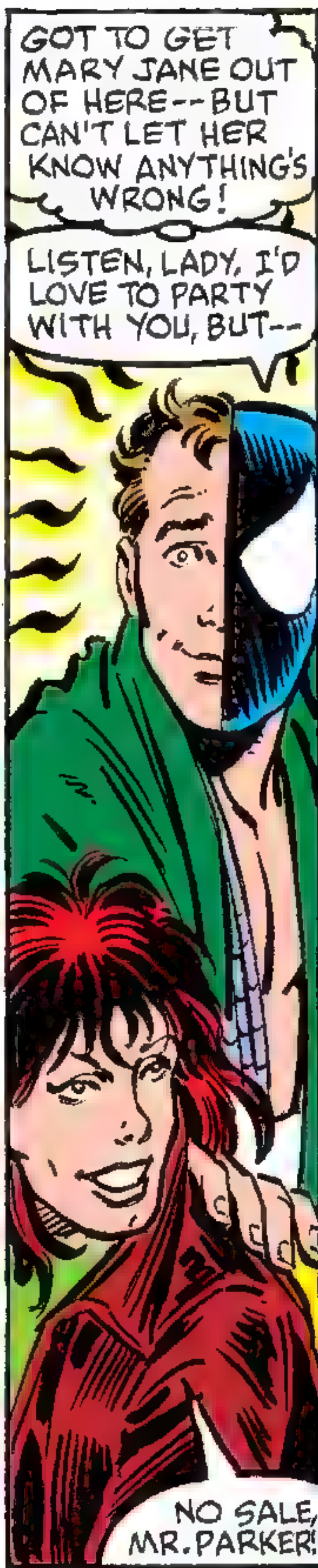
FEELING ANY BETTER--?







"--LURKING OUTSIDE!"



GOT TO GET MARY JANE OUT OF HERE-- BUT CAN'T LET HER KNOW ANYTHING'S WRONG!

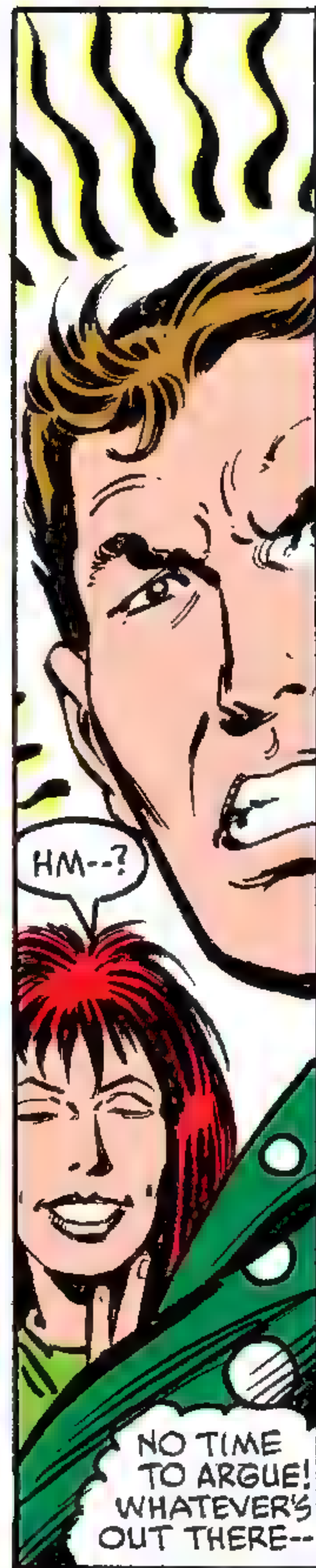
LISTEN, LADY, I'D LOVE TO PARTY WITH YOU, BUT--

NO SALE, MR. PARKER!



THIS IS ONE TIME YOU CAN'T BRUSH ME OFF! I'M NOT LEAVING!

NOW, THEN, WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR CORKSCREW?



HM--?

NO TIME TO ARGUE! WHATEVER'S OUT THERE--



"--IS CLOSING IN ON US!"



SORRY, M.J., BUT YOU'VE REALLY GOT TO GO!

NOW--!

PETER! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!

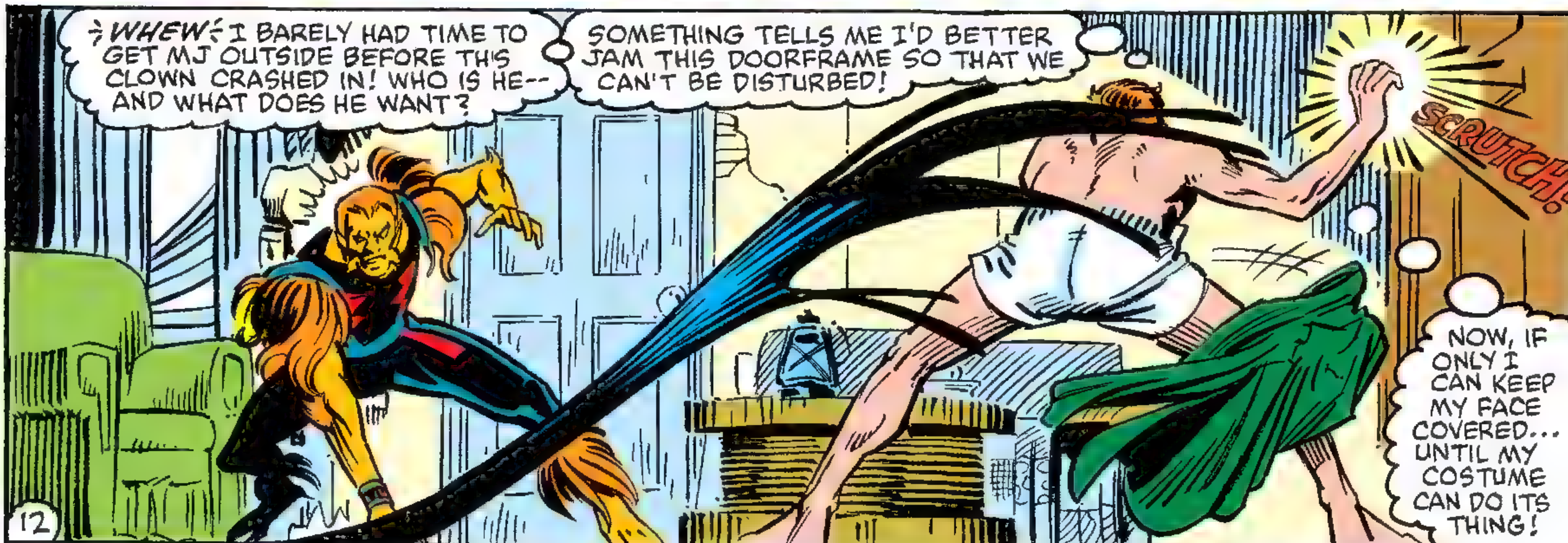


WHU--?! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

GOT TO SHOVE HER TO SAFETY BEFORE--



KRAASH!

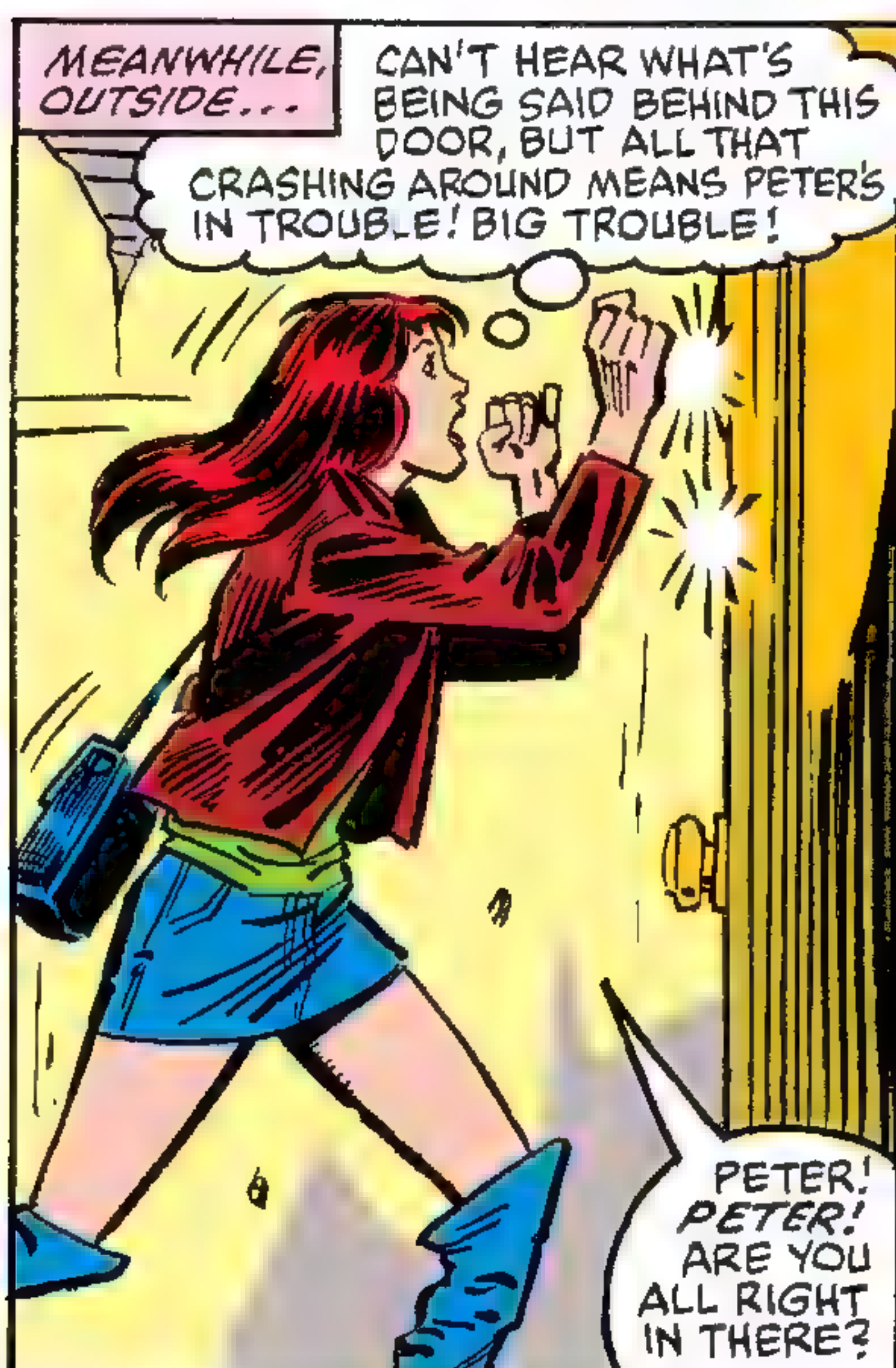
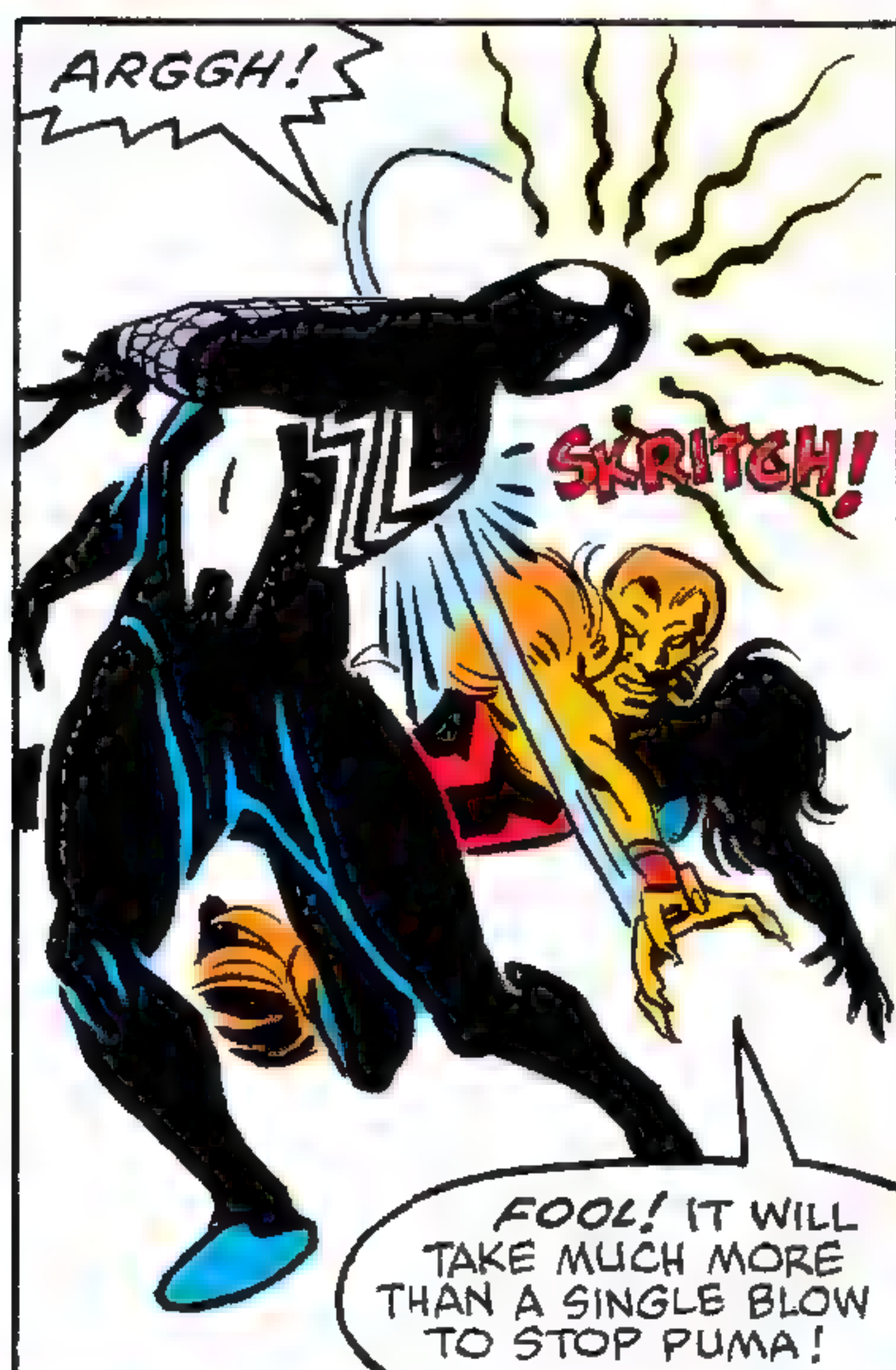
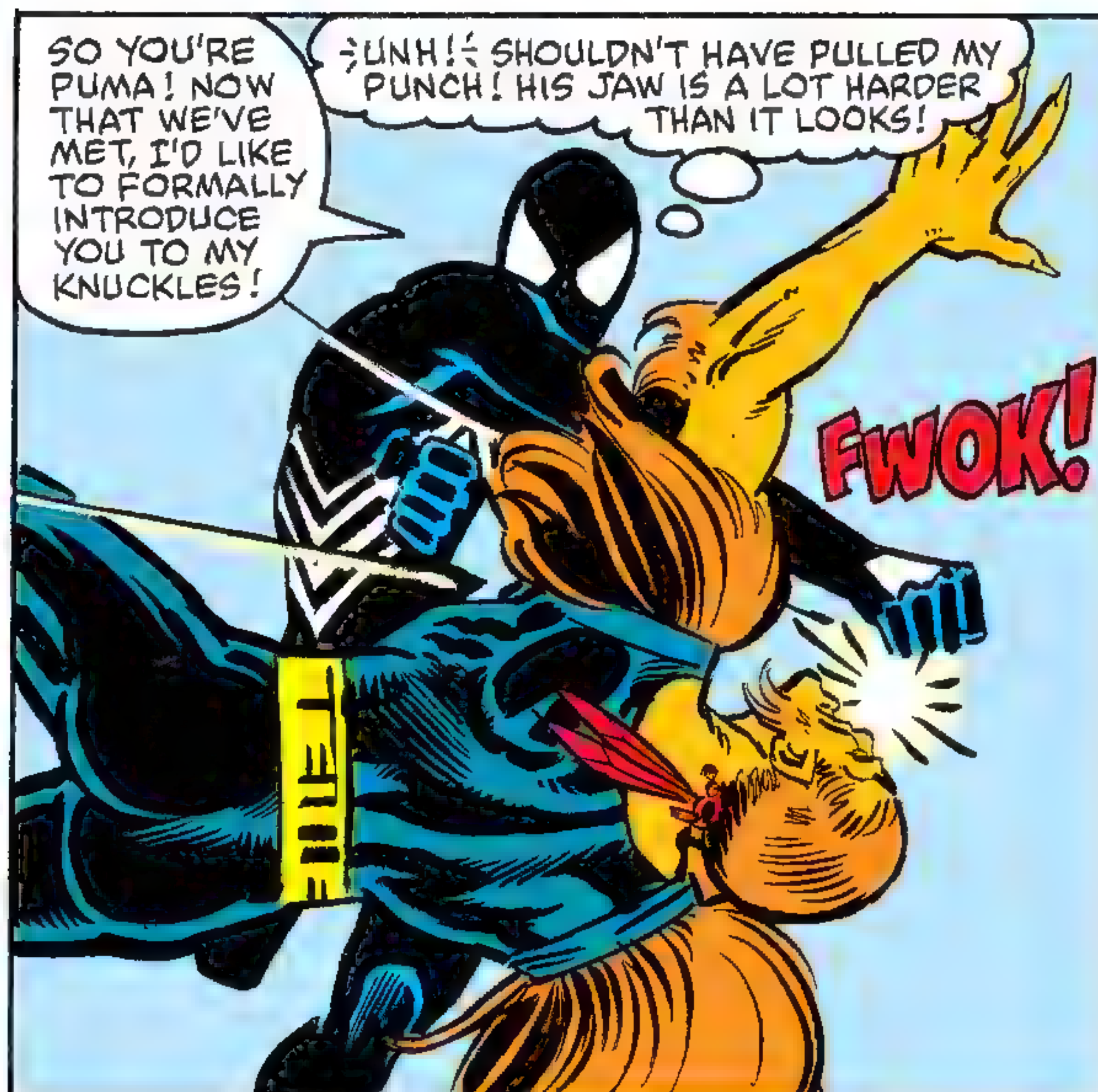
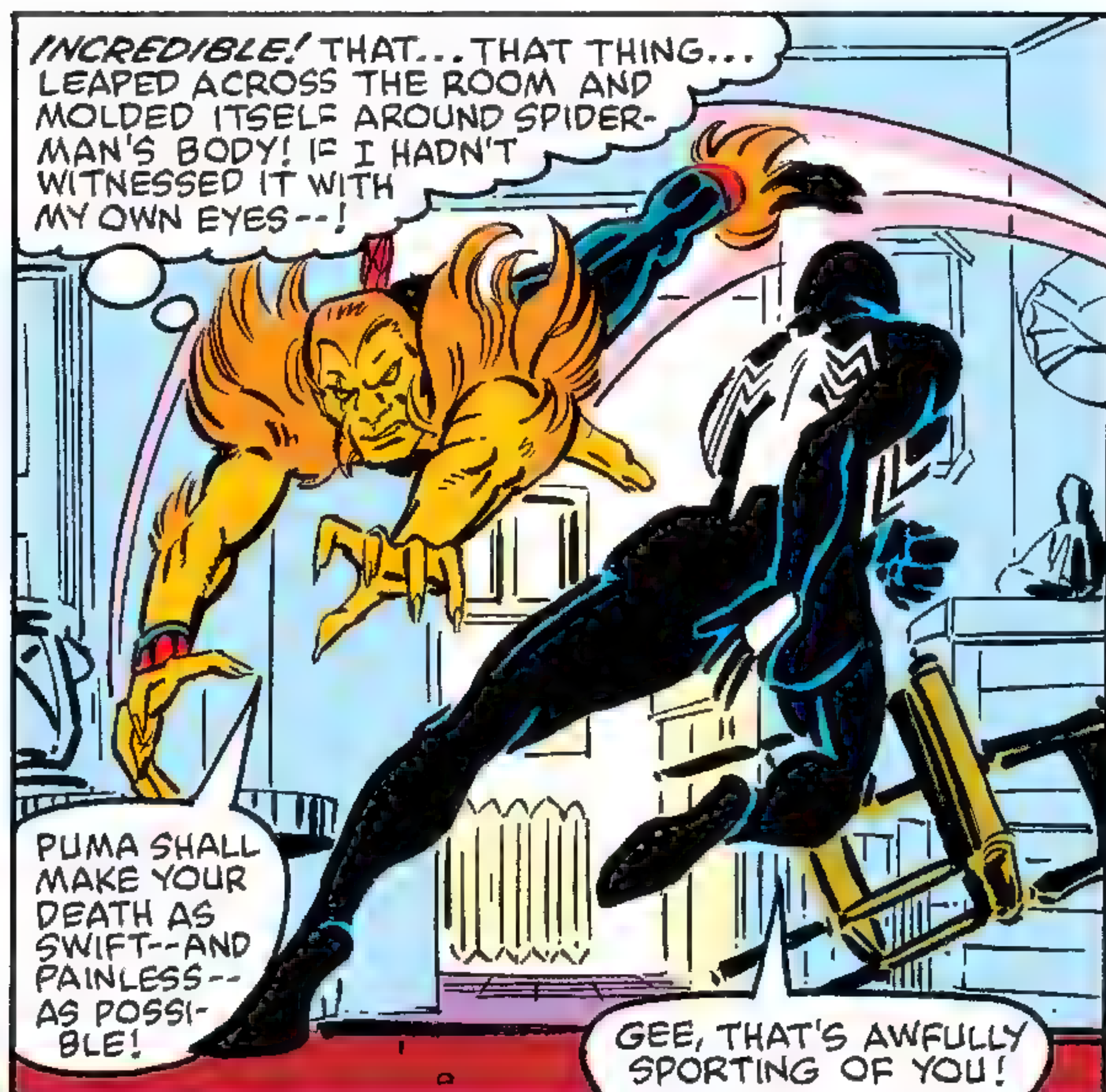


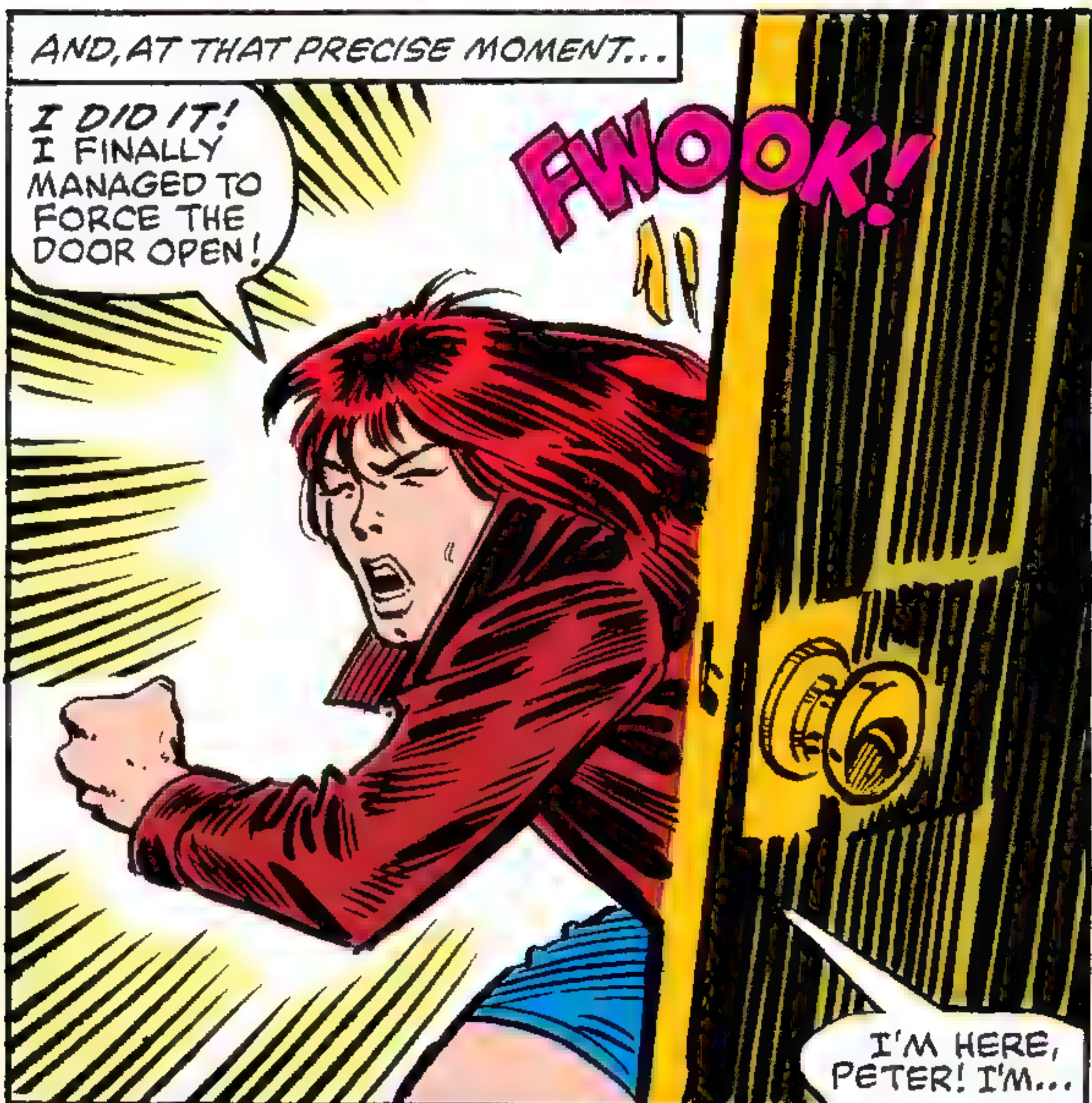
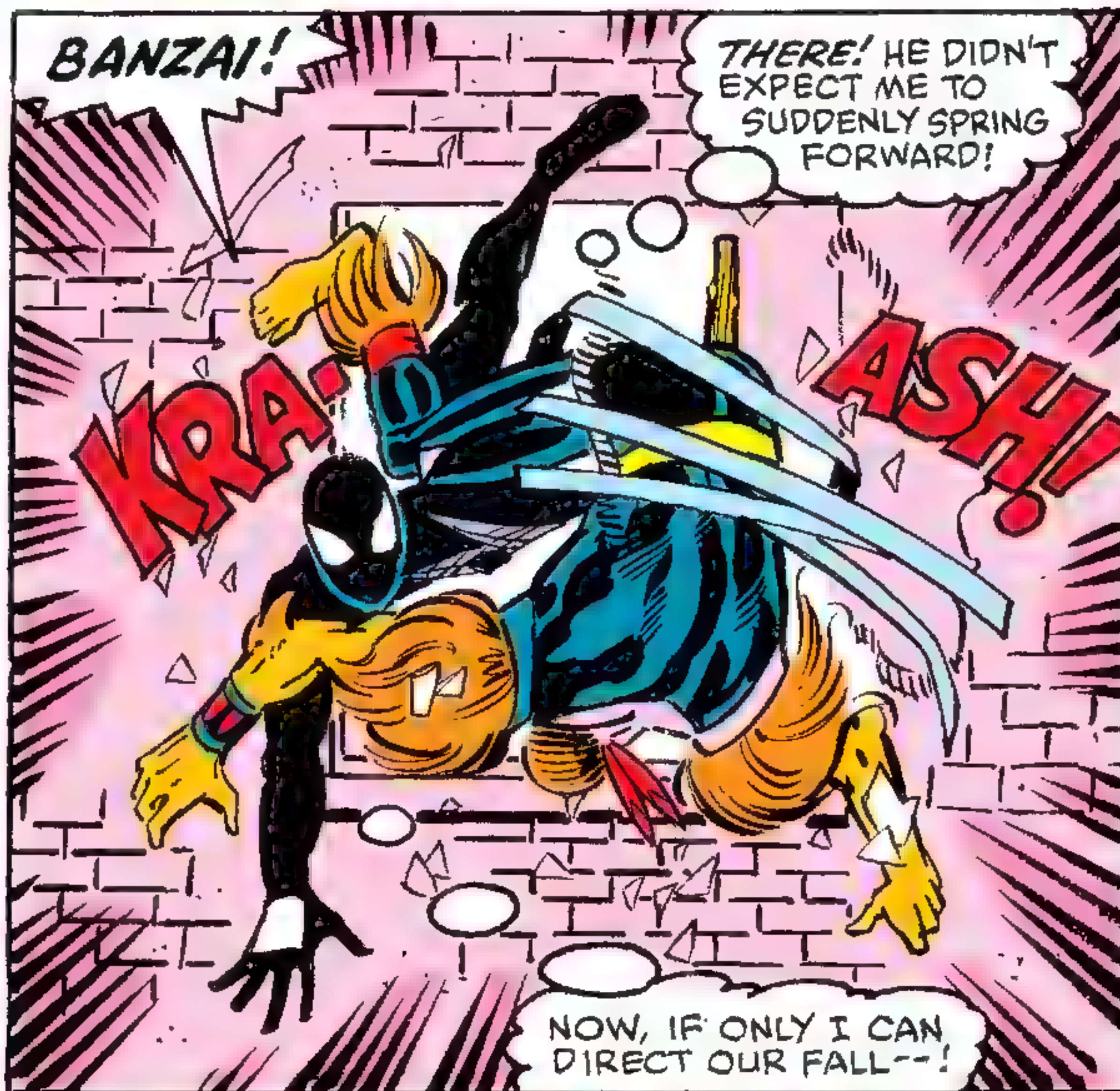
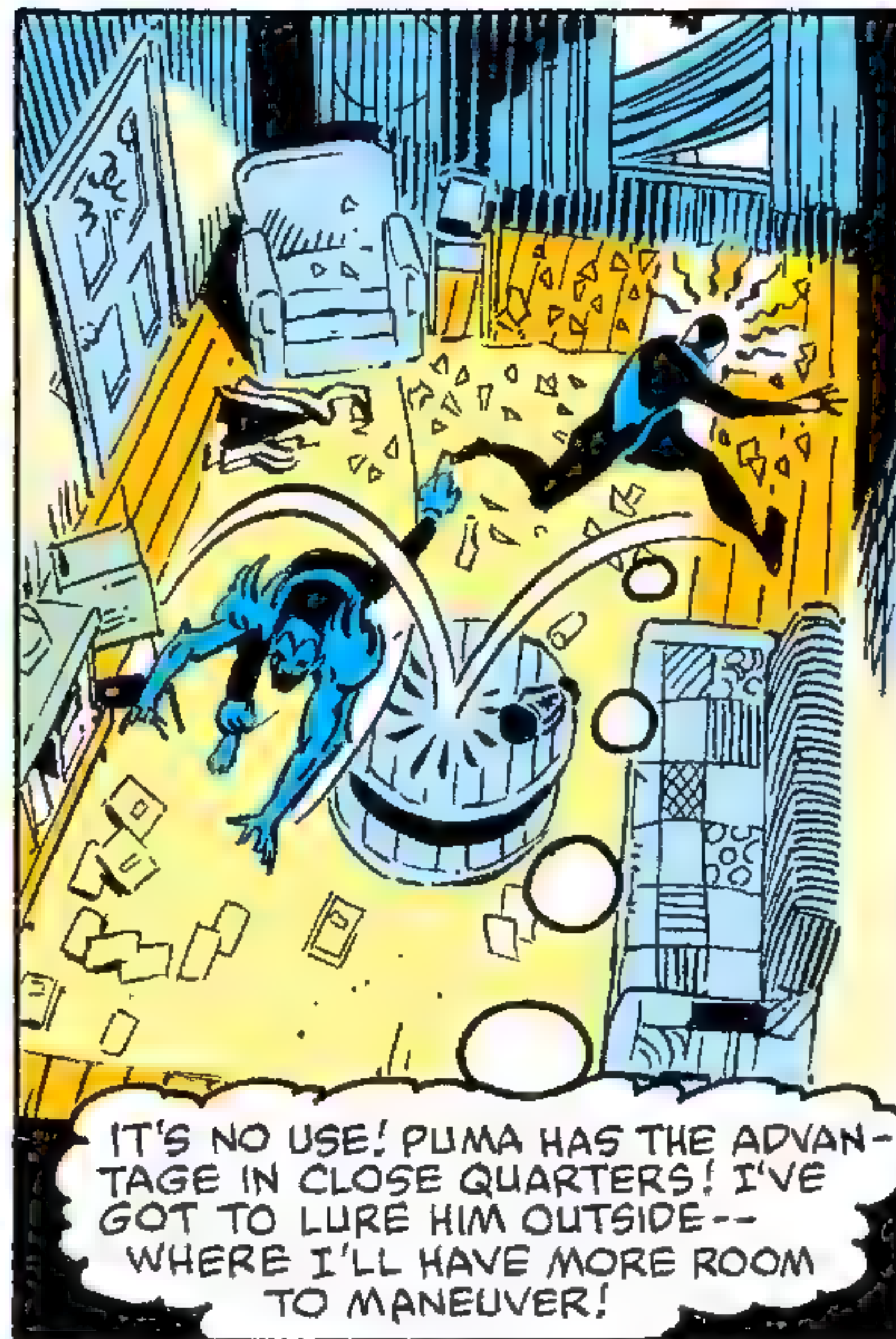
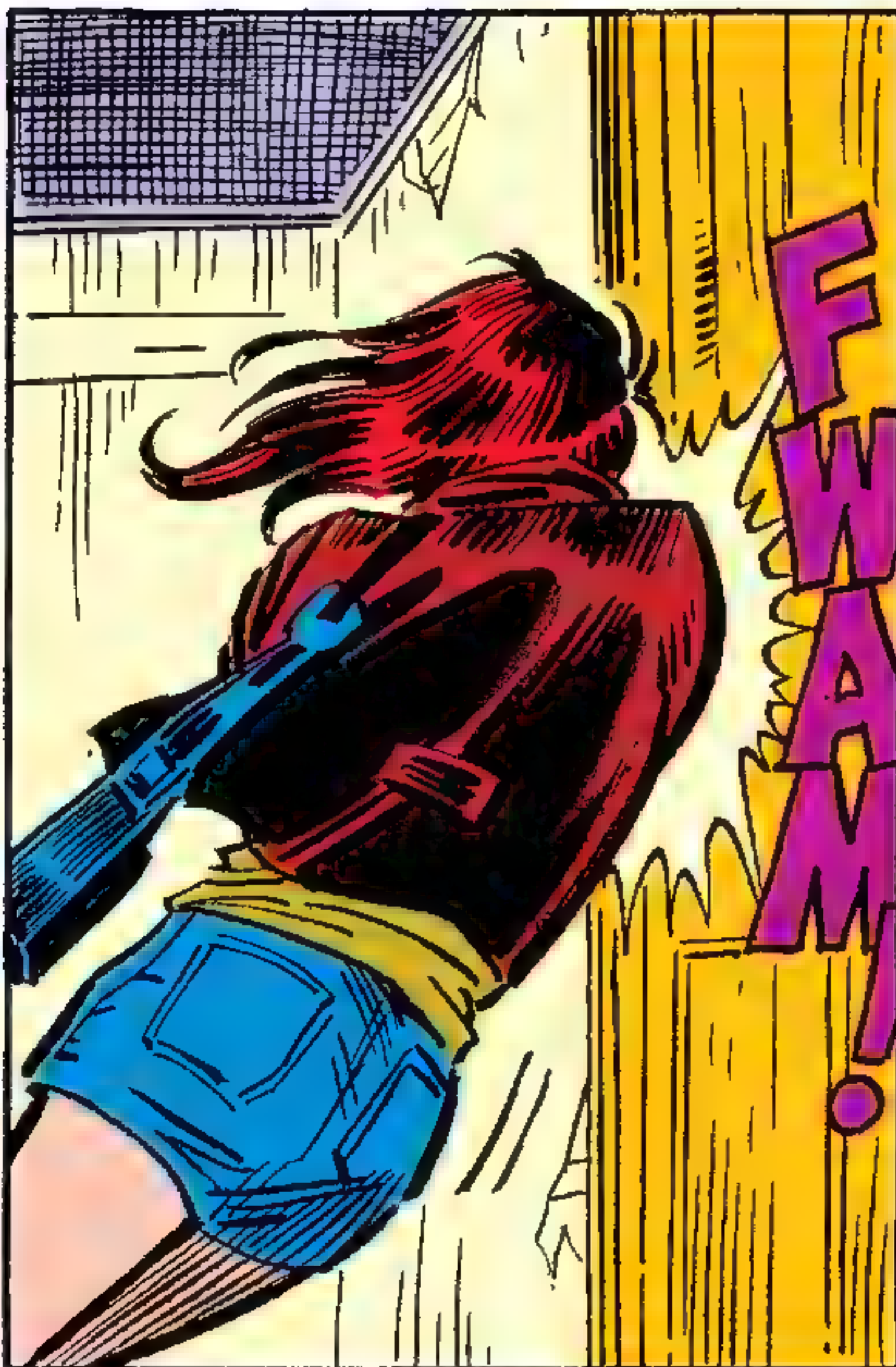
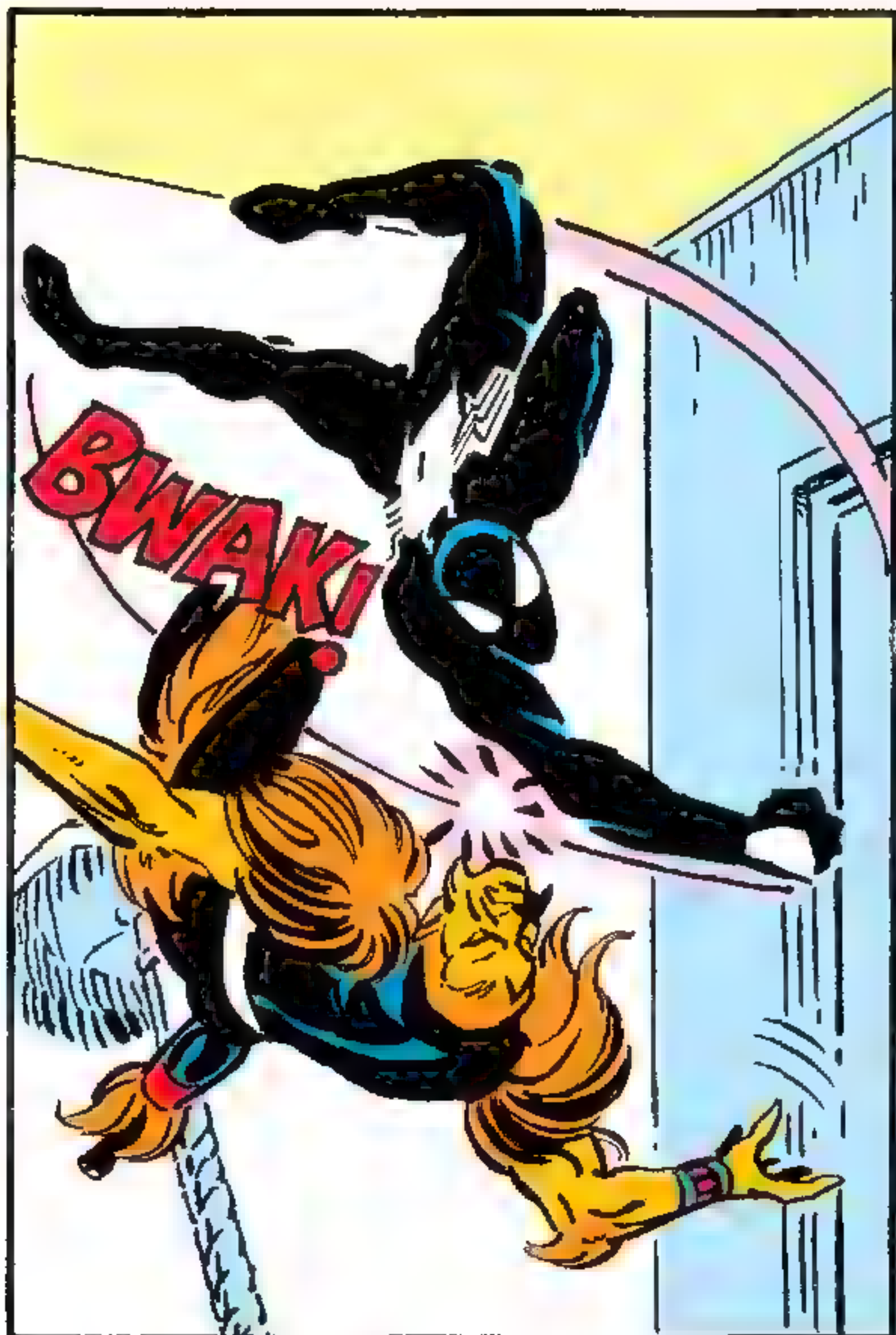
WHEW! I BARELY HAD TIME TO GET MJ OUTSIDE BEFORE THIS CLOWN CRASHED IN! WHO IS HE-- AND WHAT DOES HE WANT?

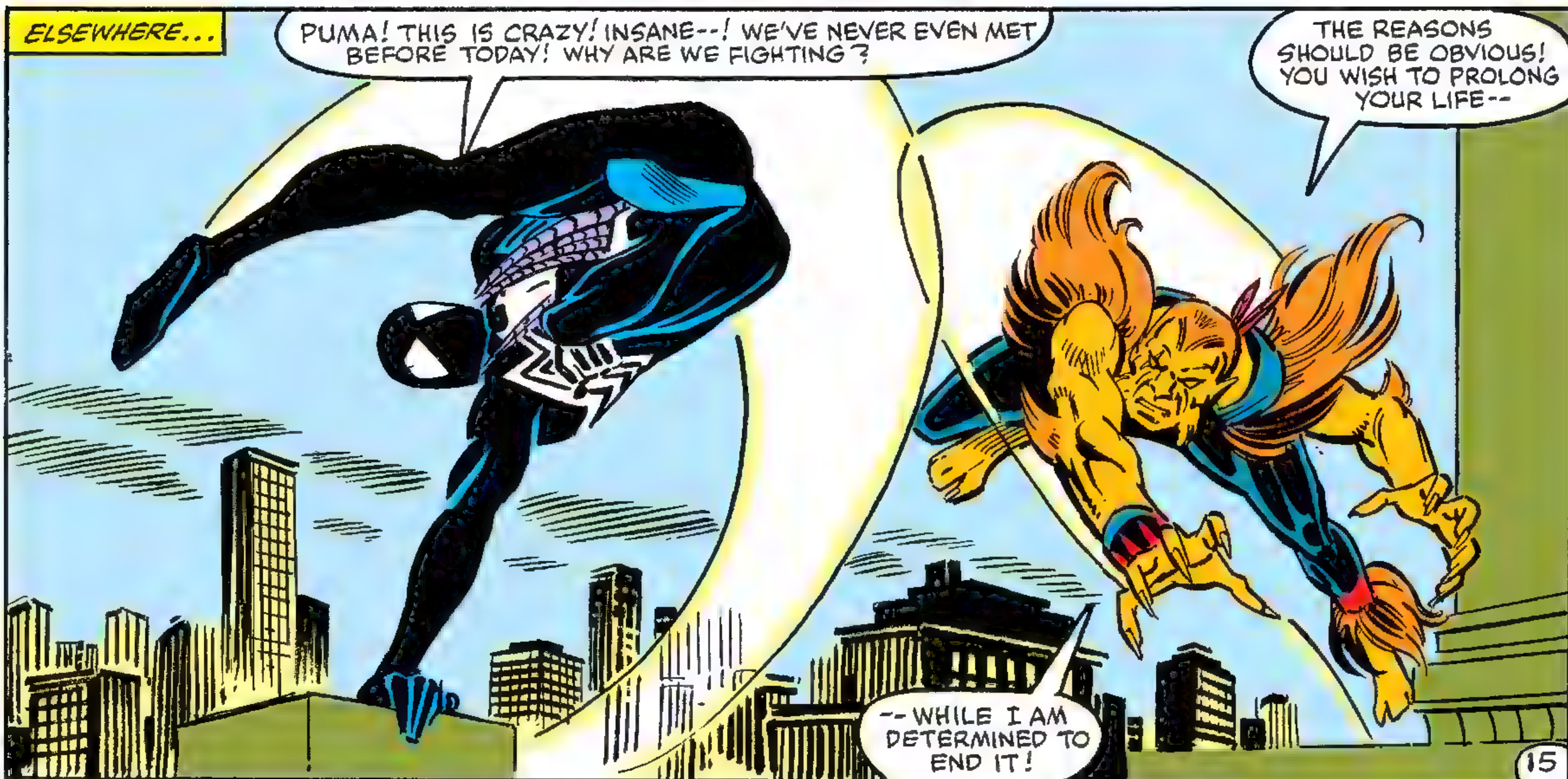
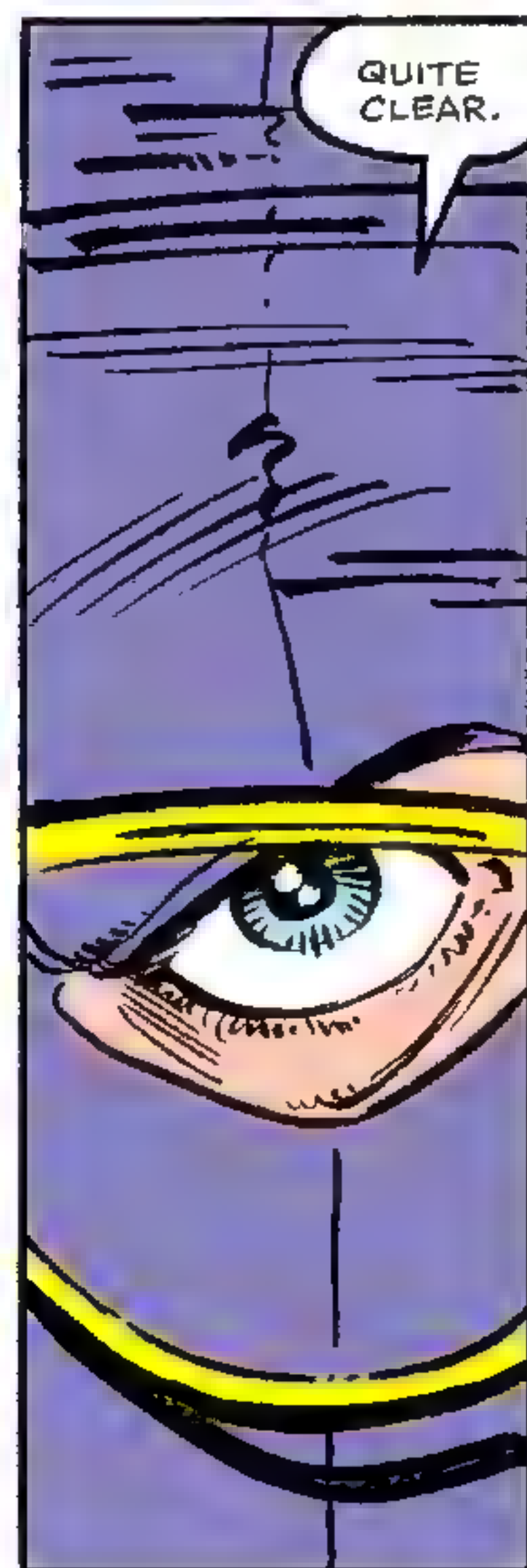
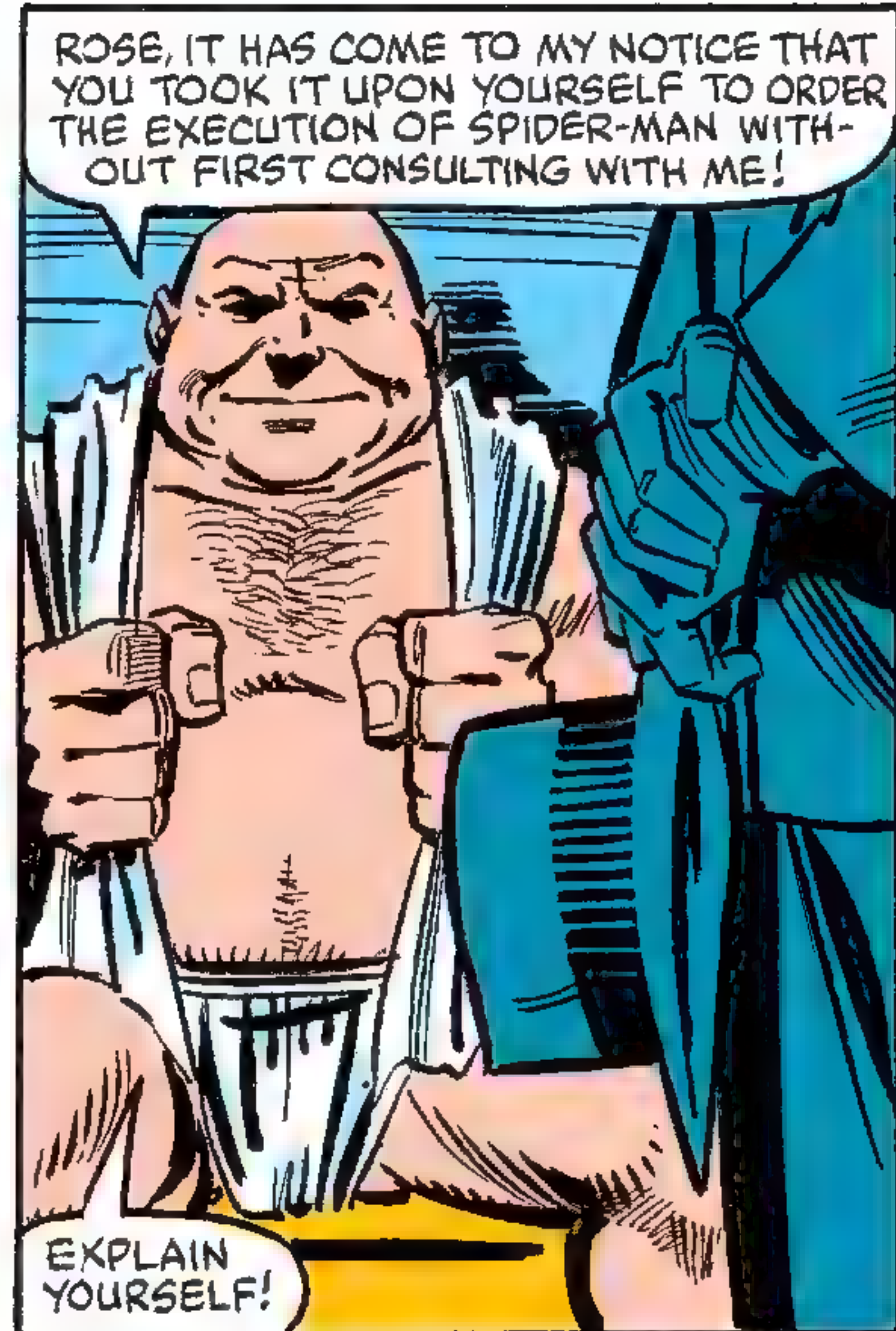
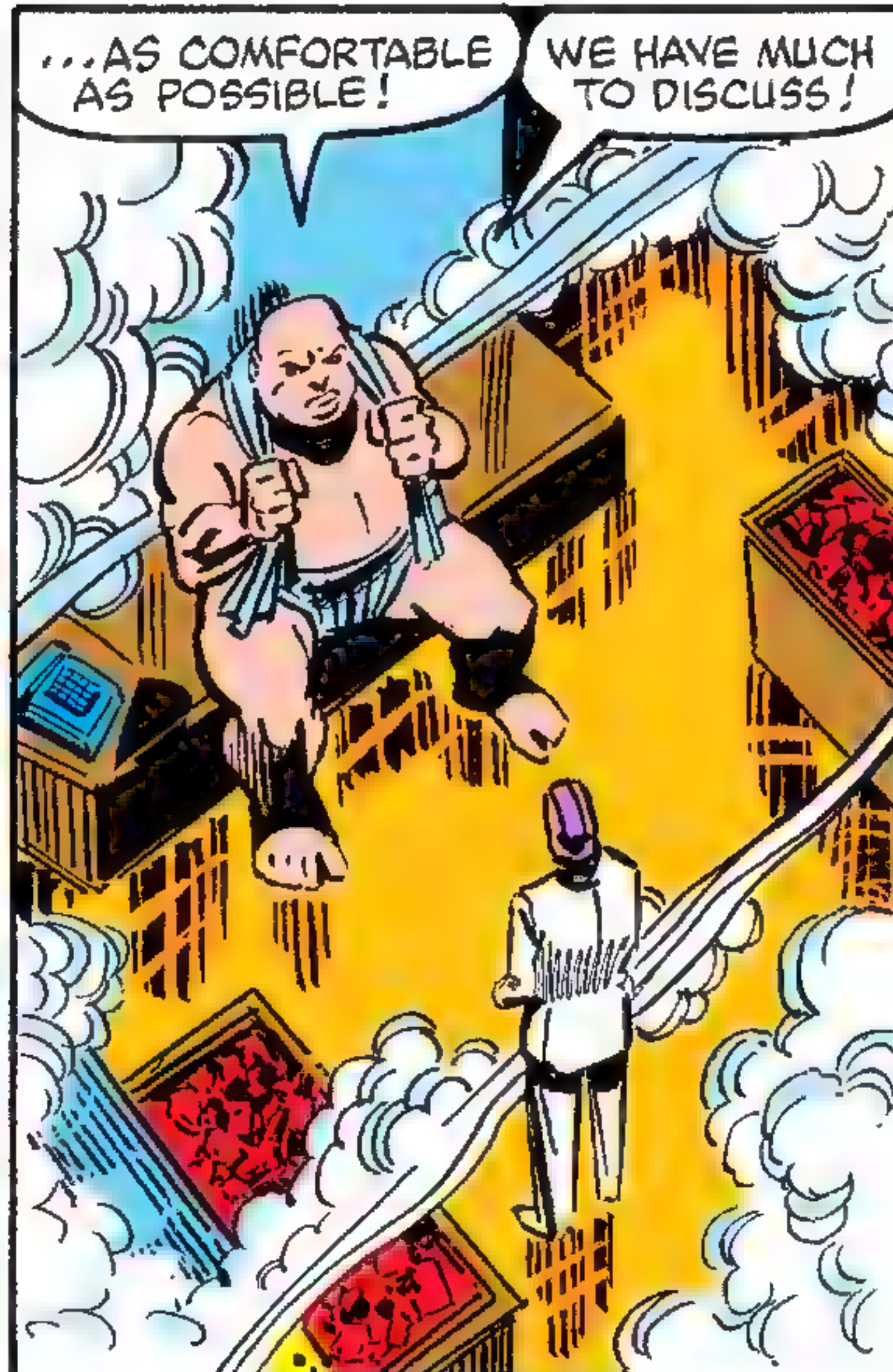
SOMETHING TELLS ME I'D BETTER JAM THIS DOORFRAME SO THAT WE CAN'T BE DISTURBED!

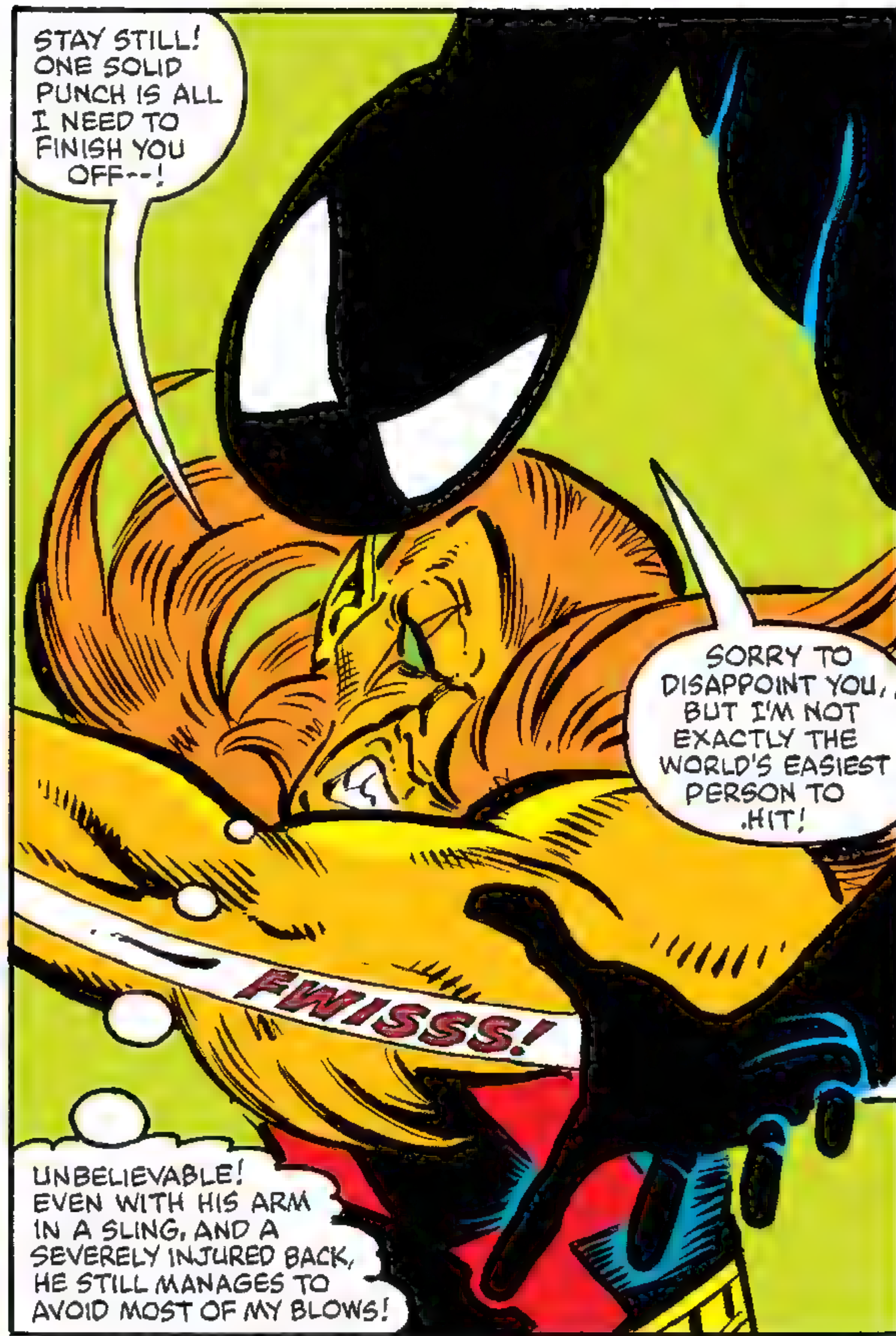
SCRUTCH!

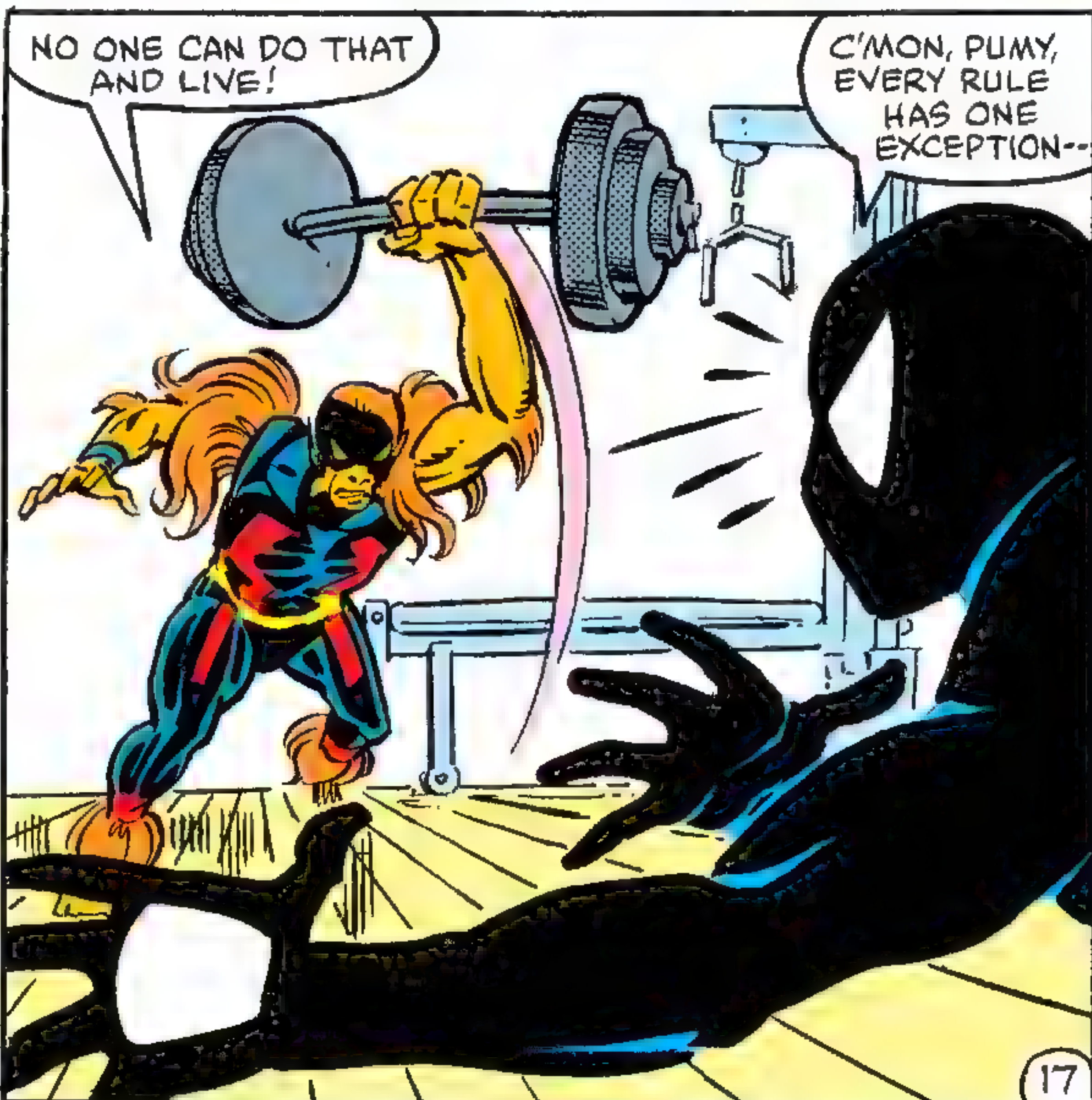
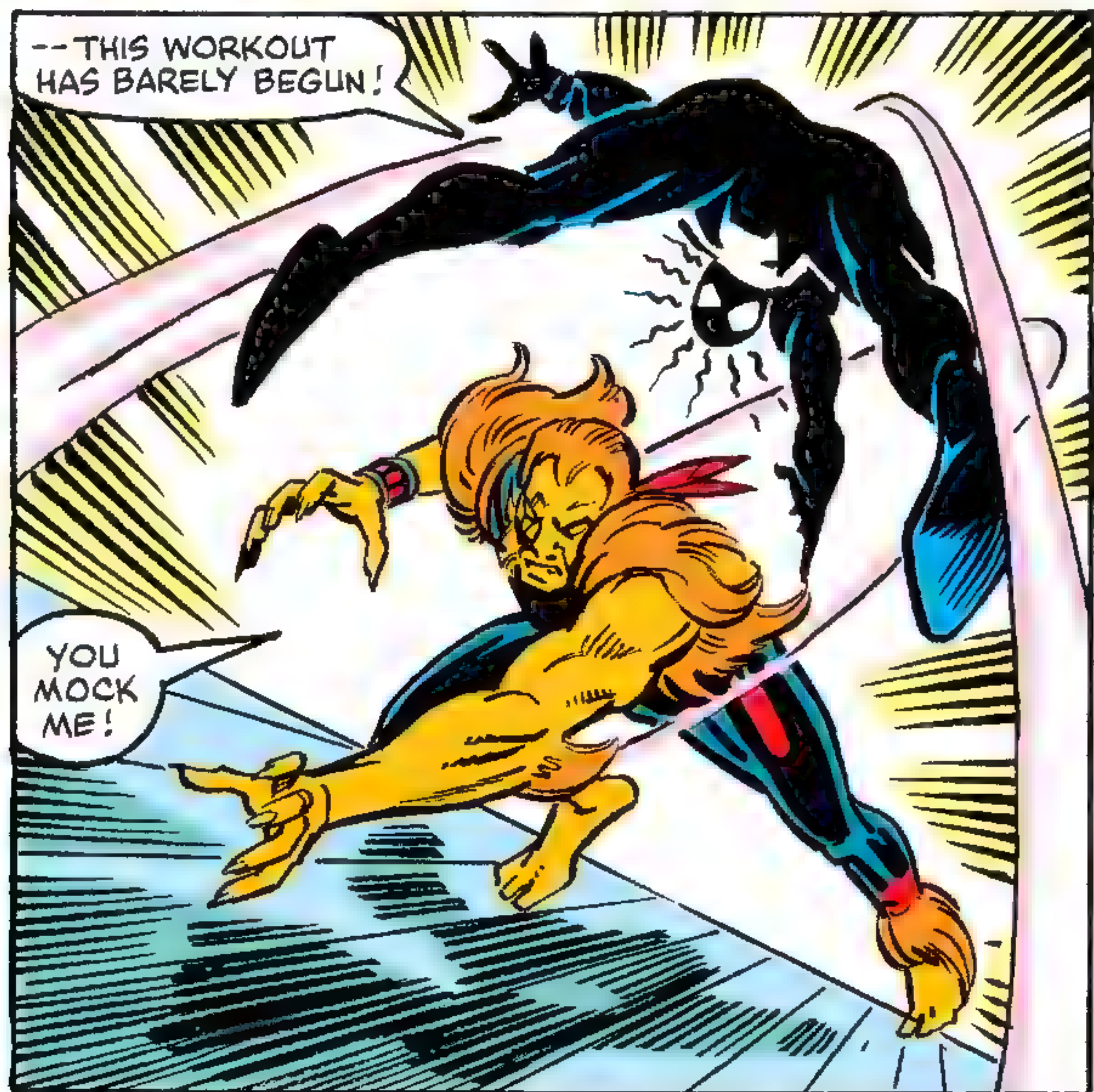
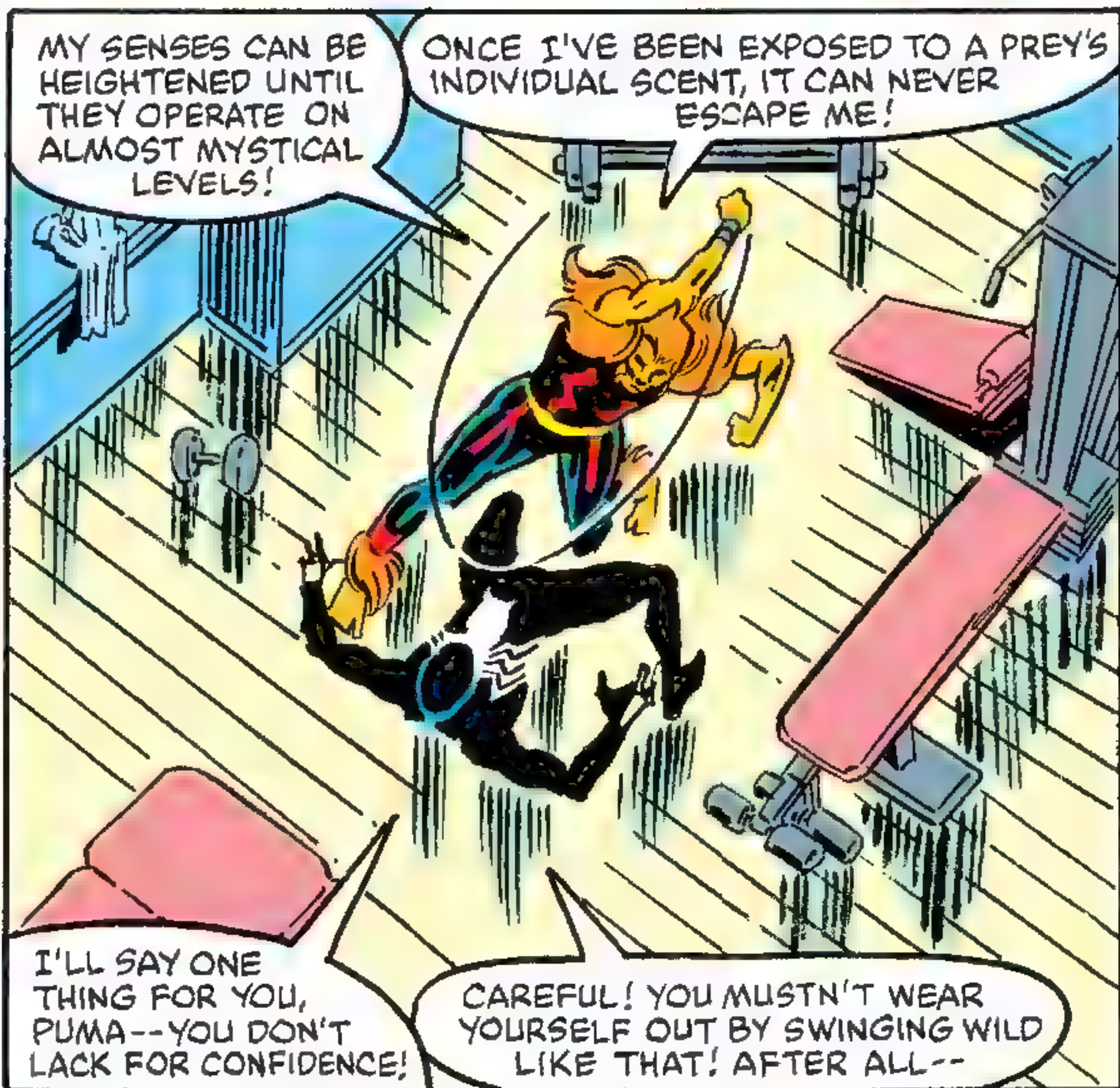
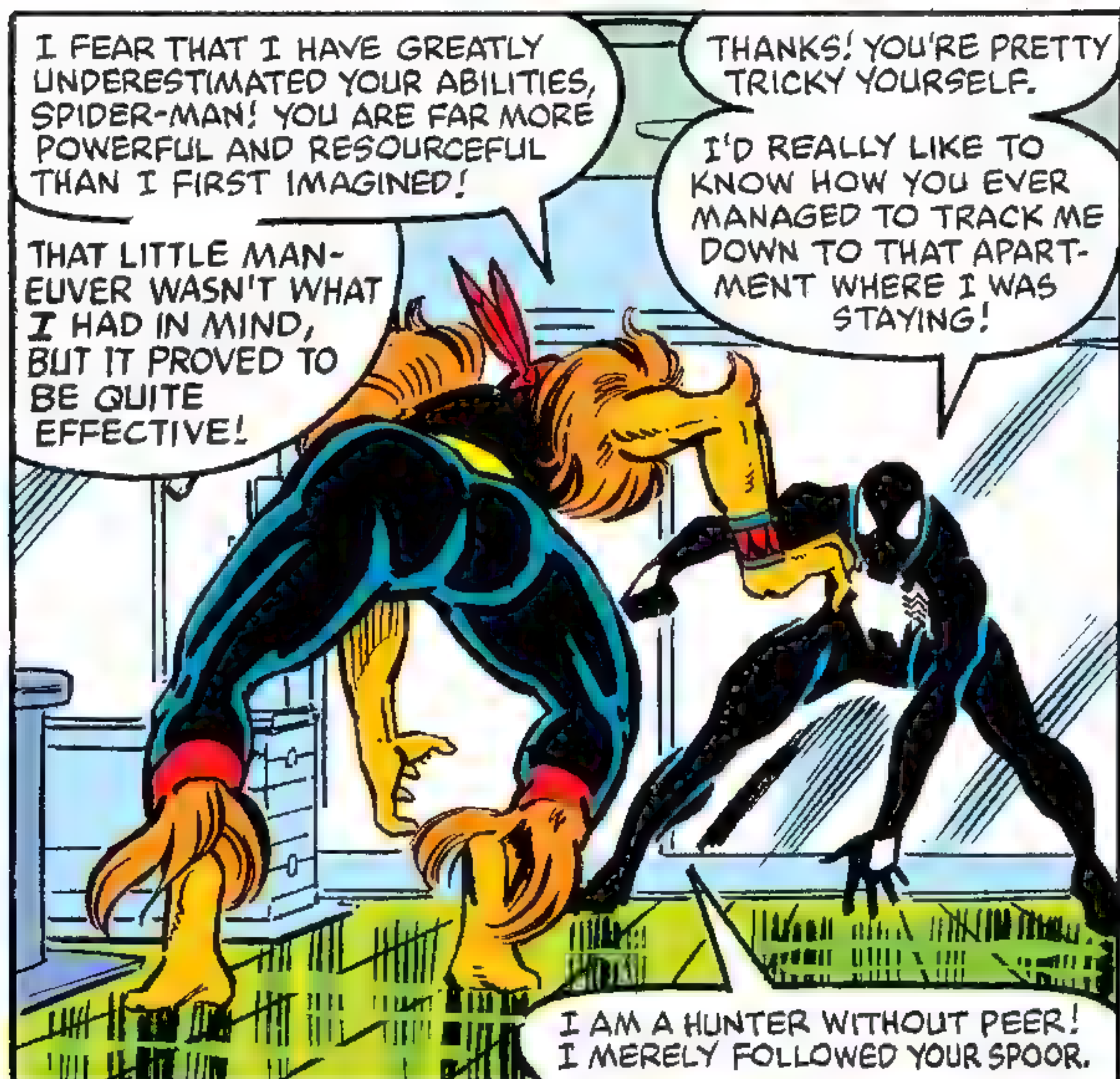
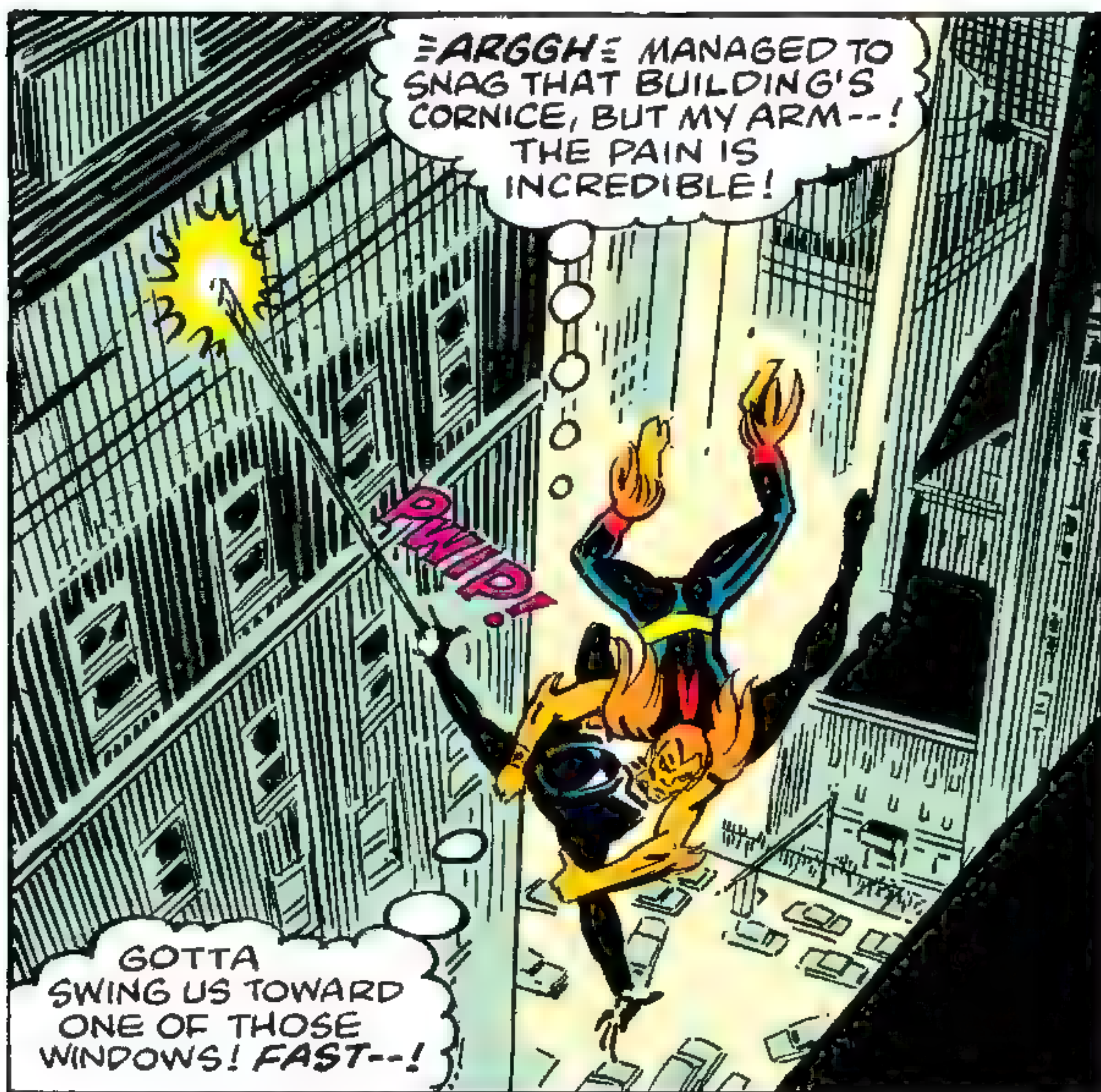
NOW, IF ONLY I CAN KEEP MY FACE COVERED... UNTIL MY COSTUME CAN DO ITS THING!

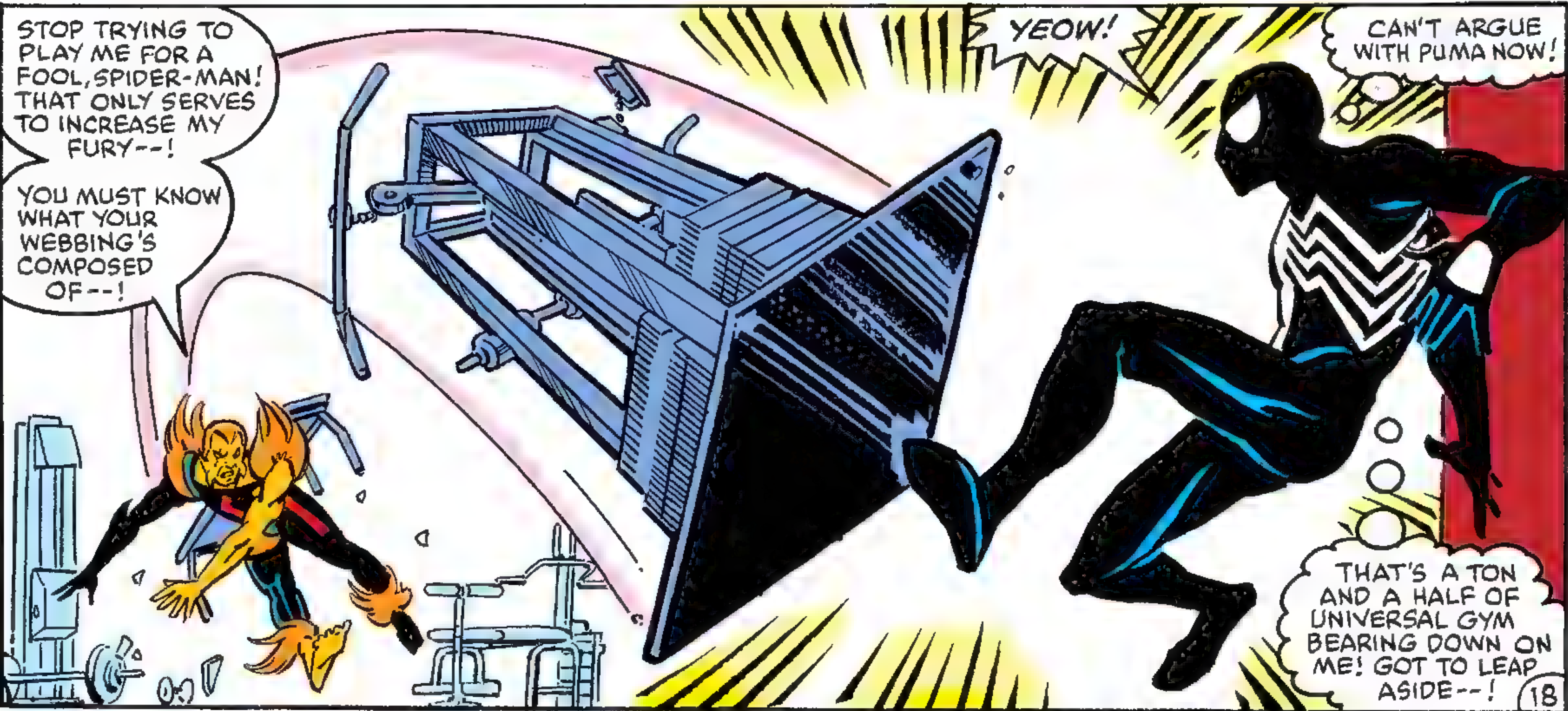
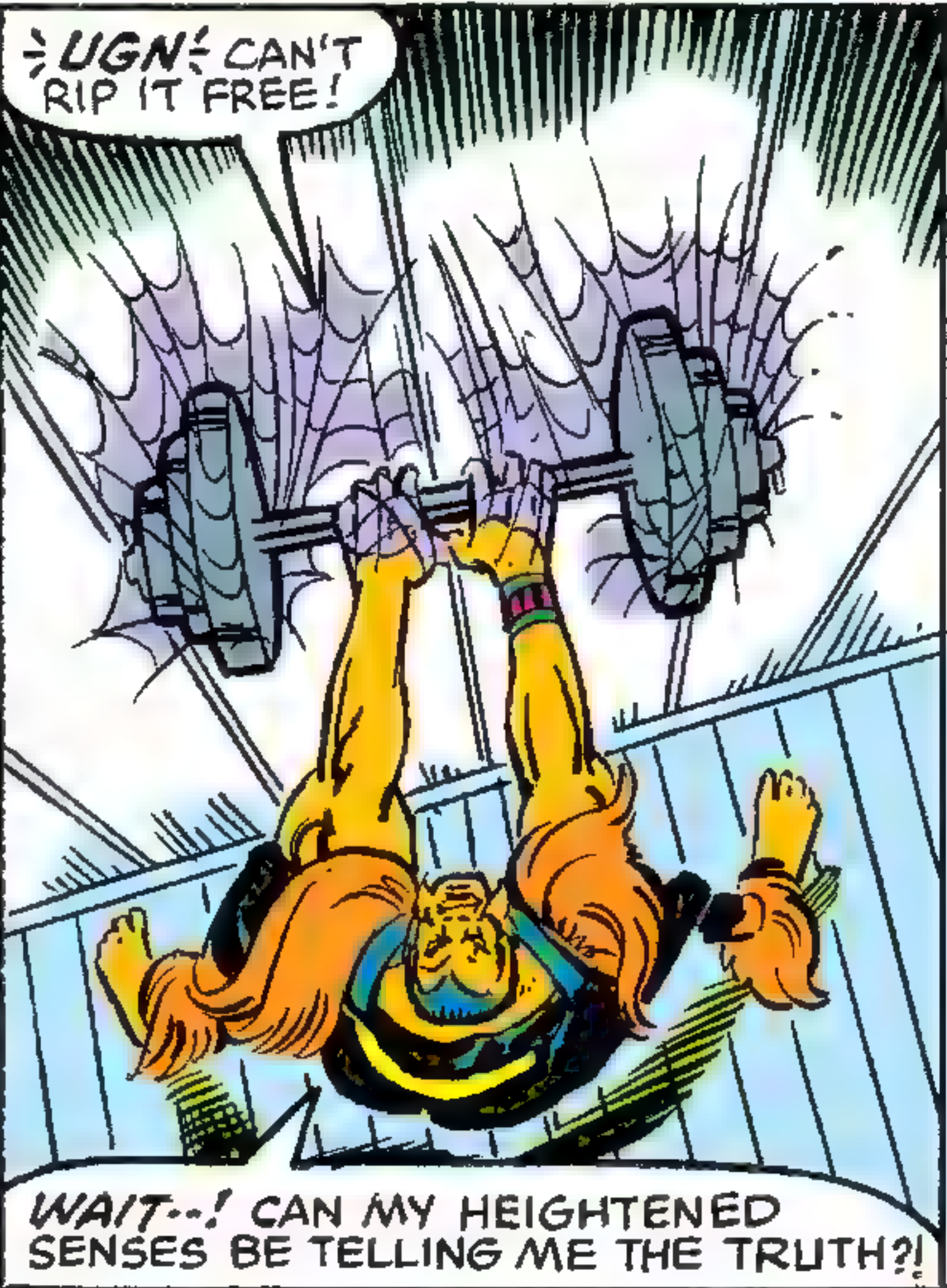
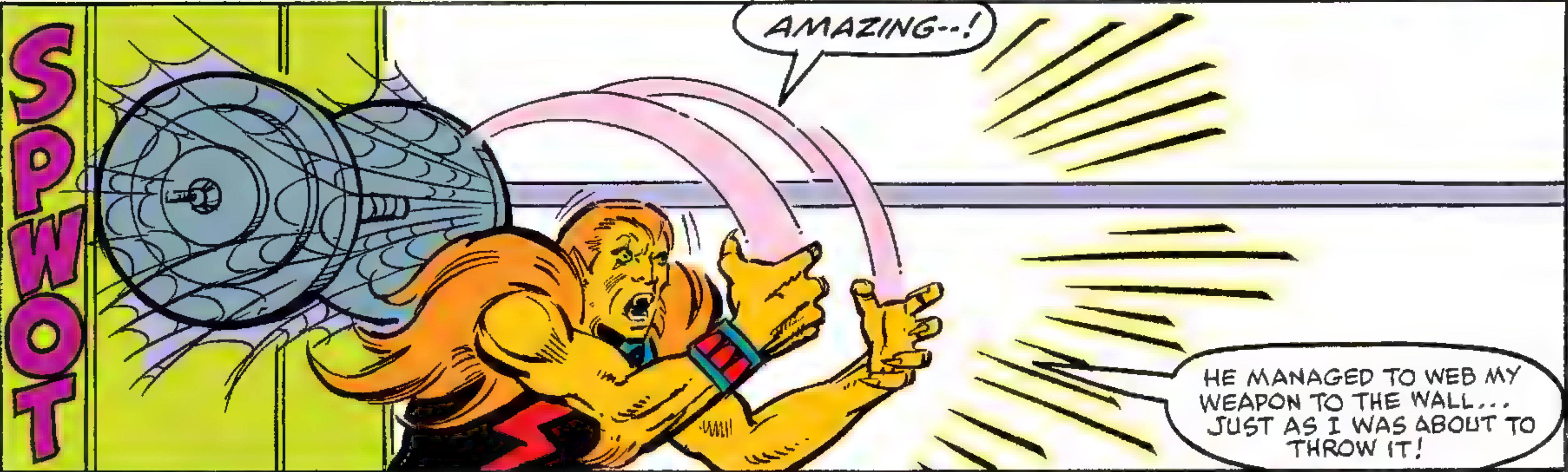
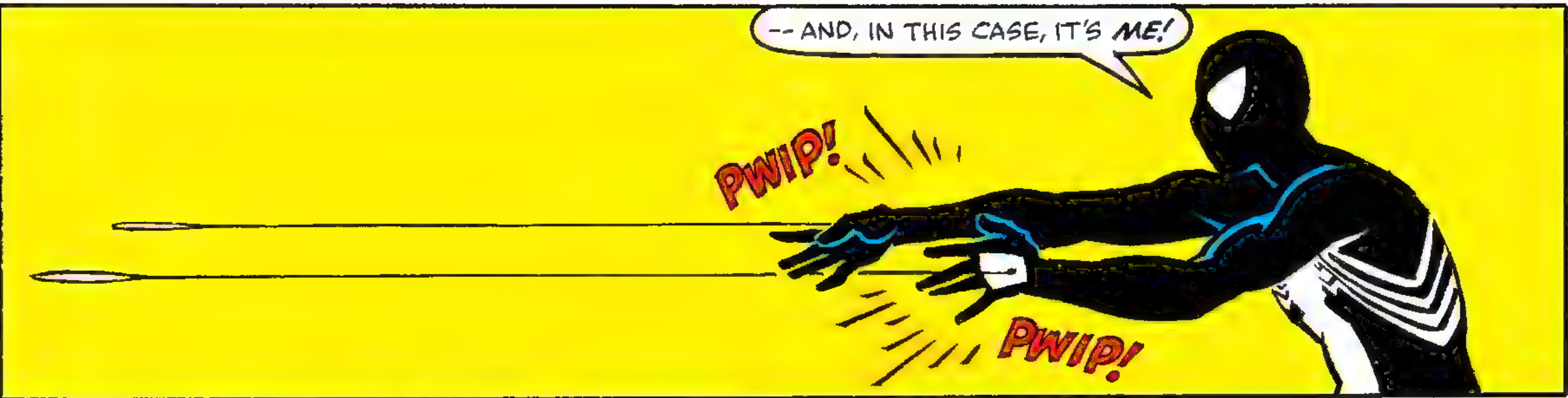


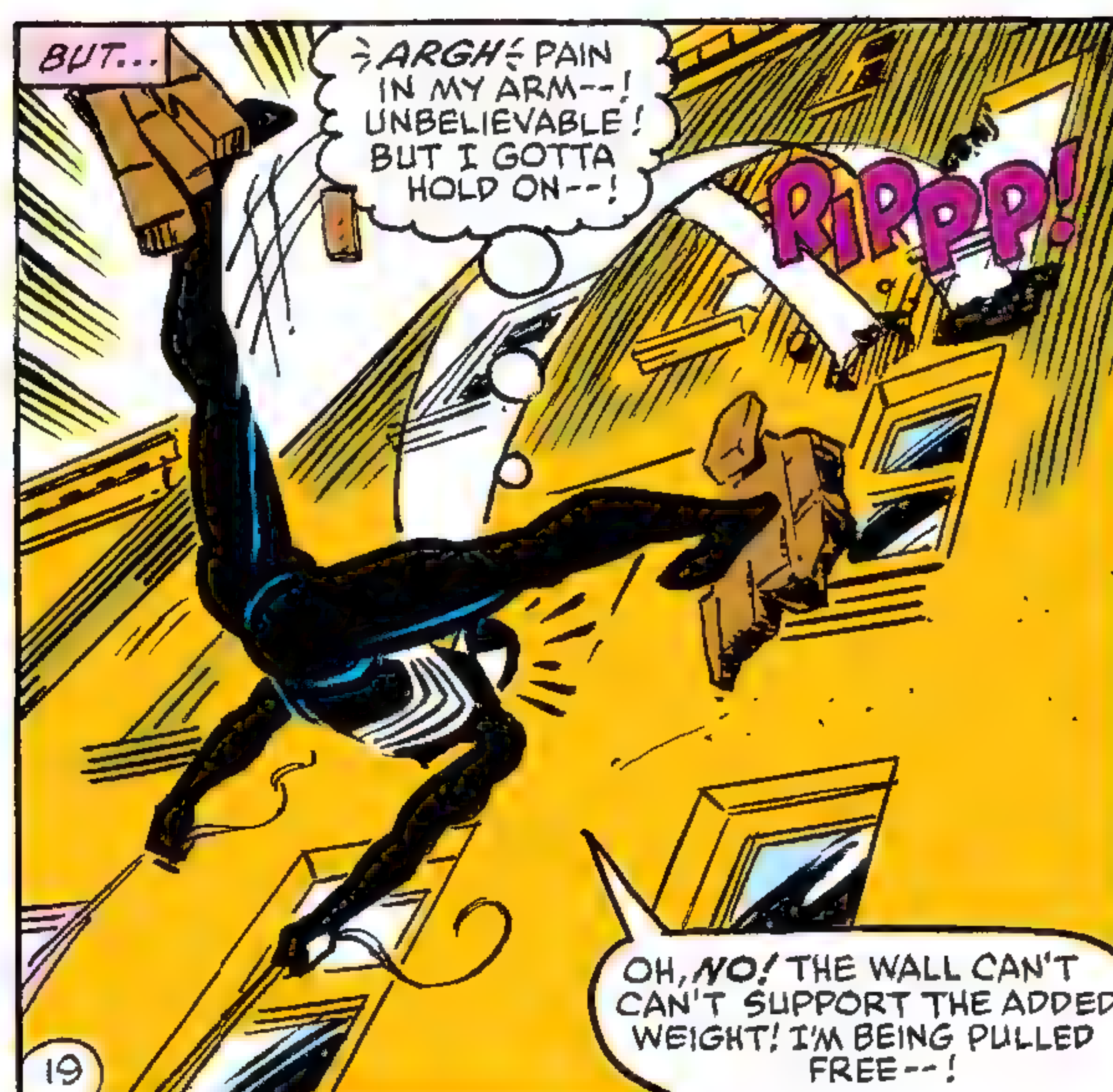
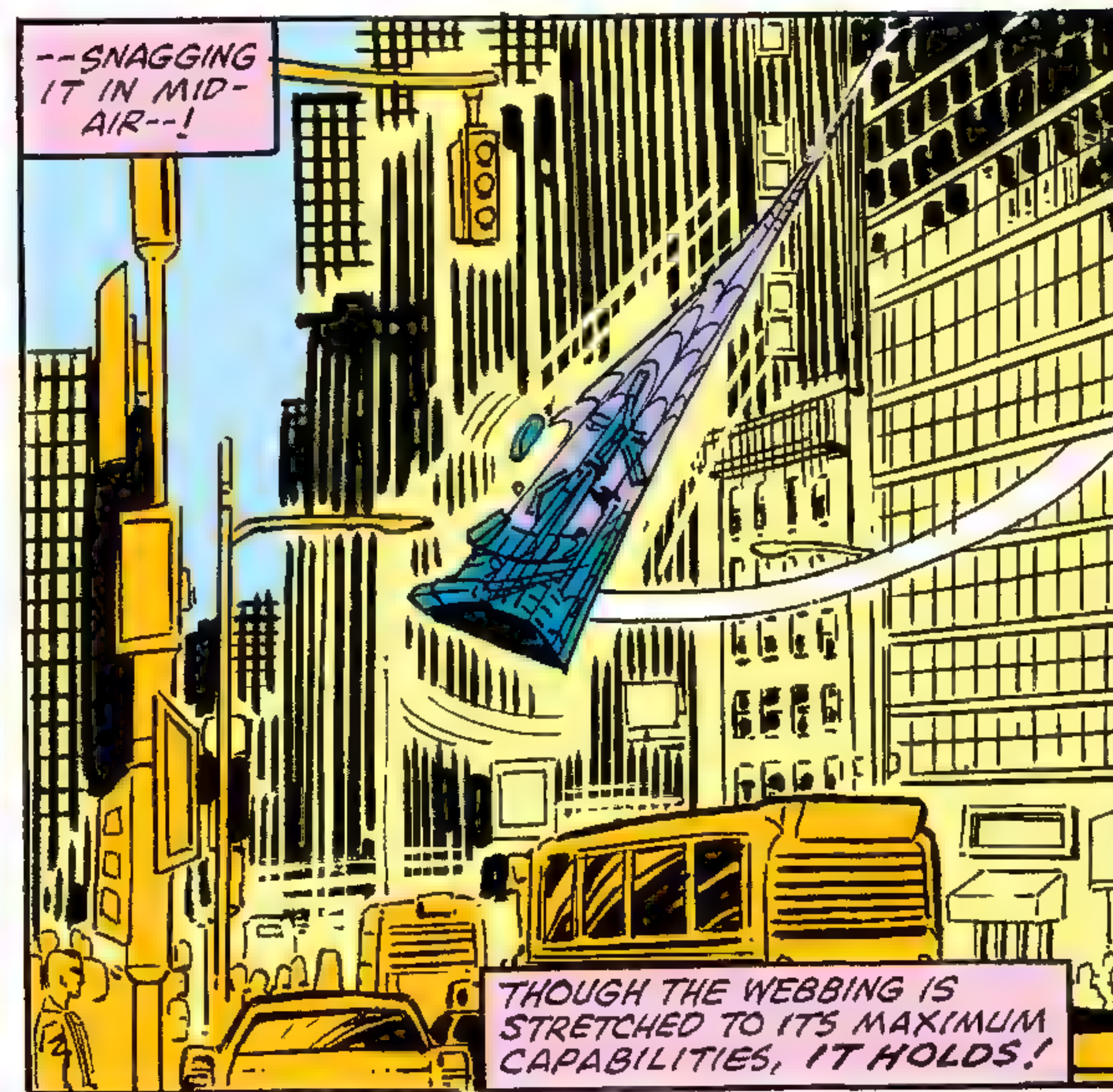
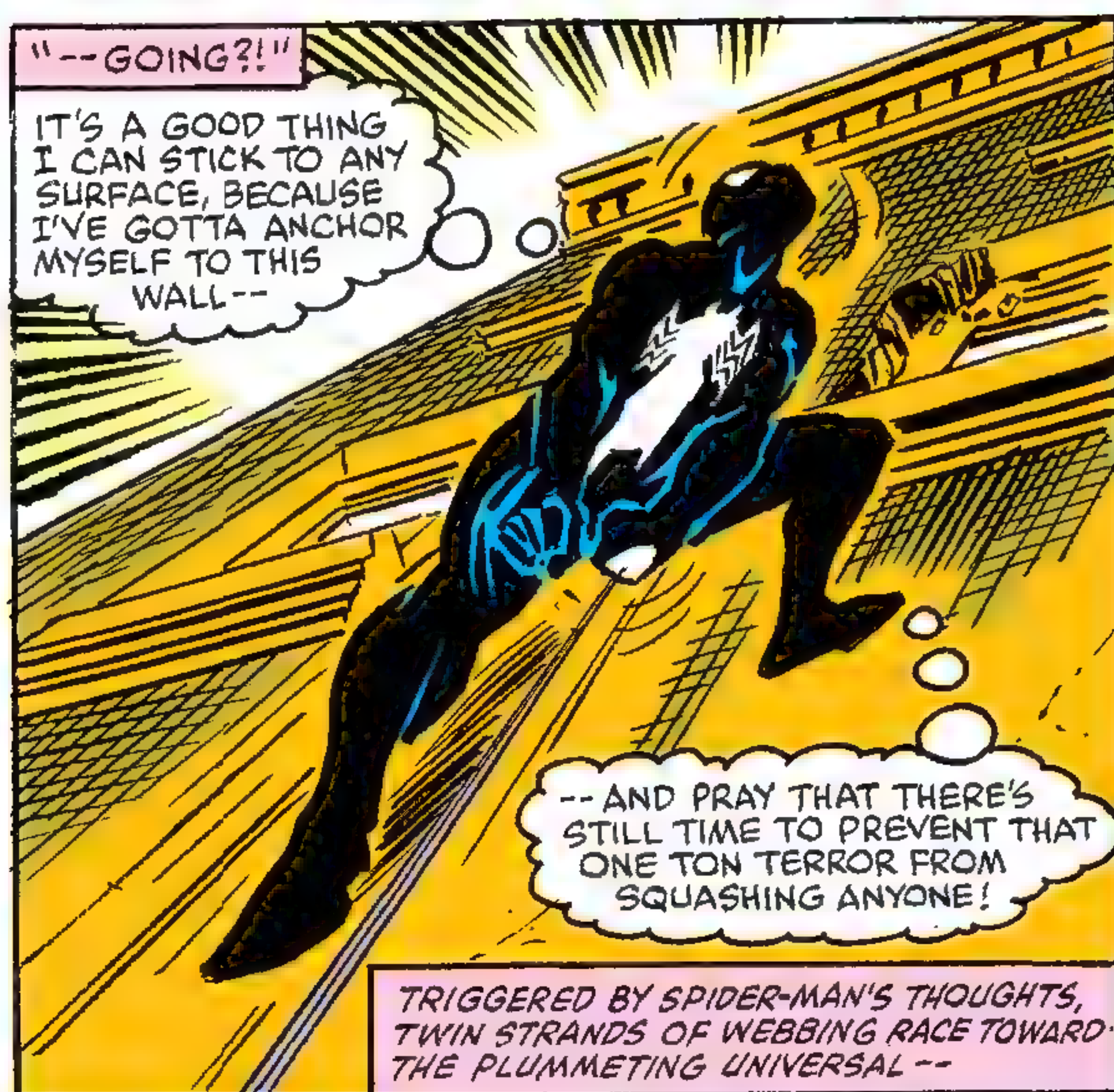
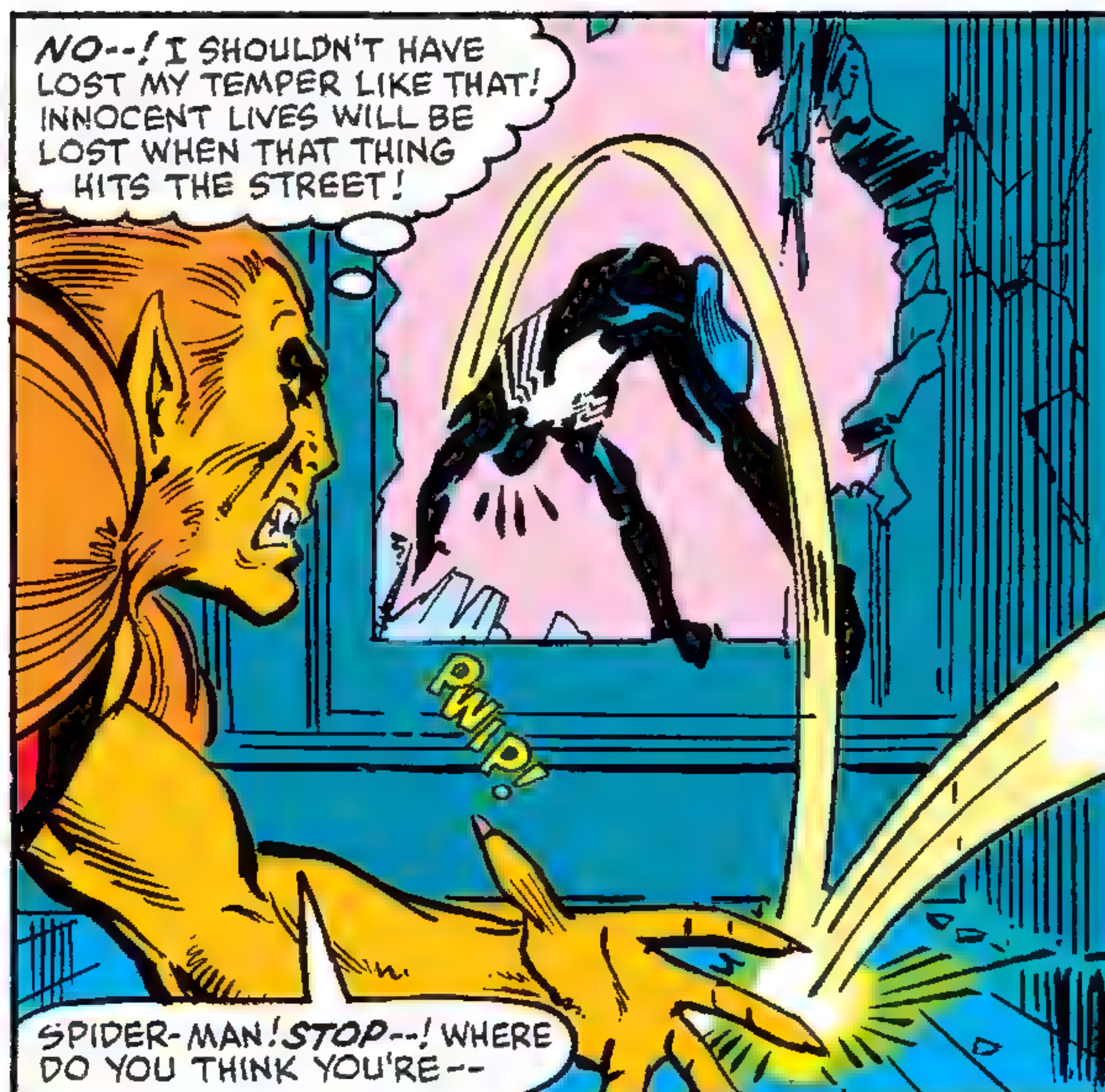
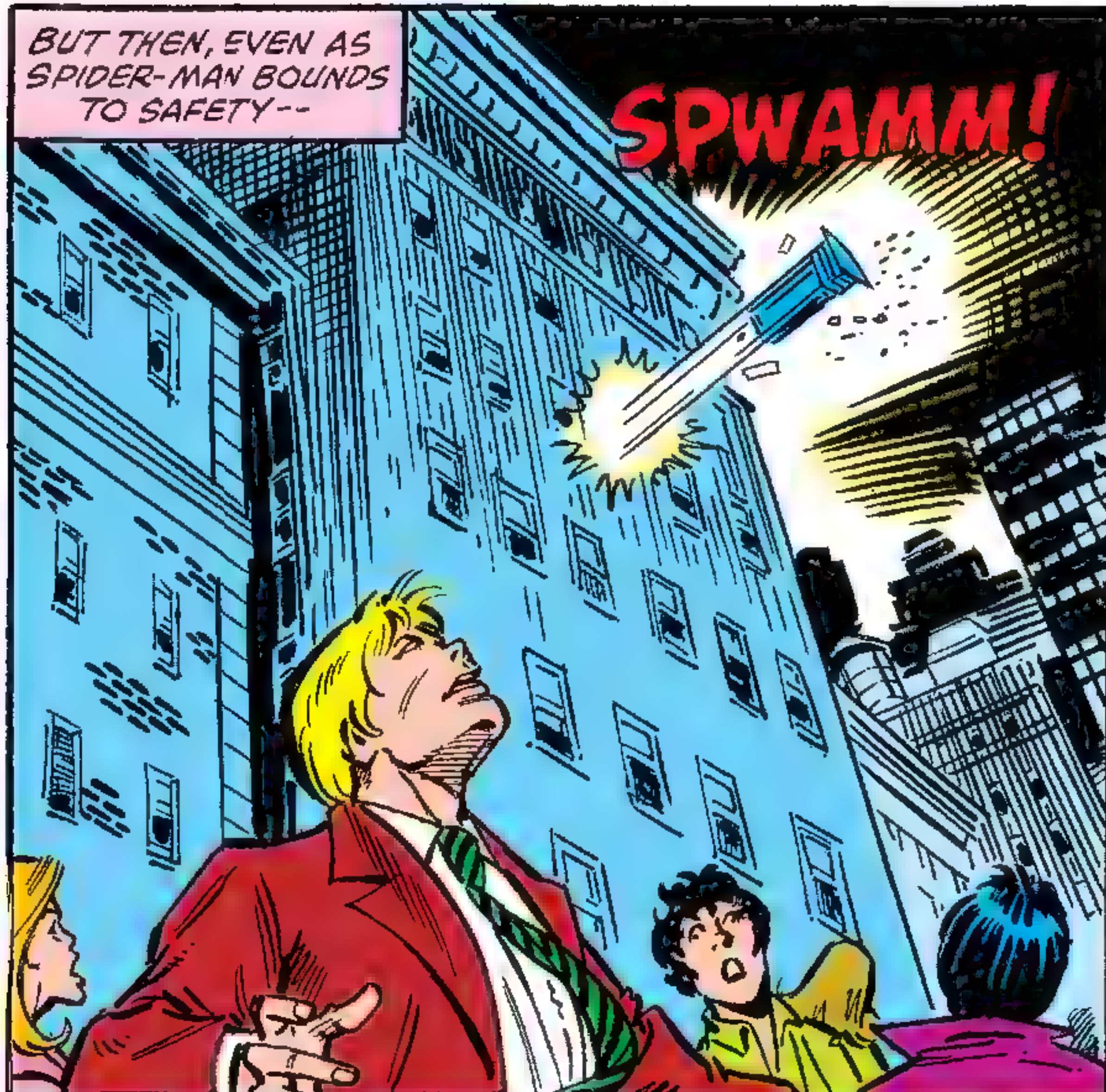


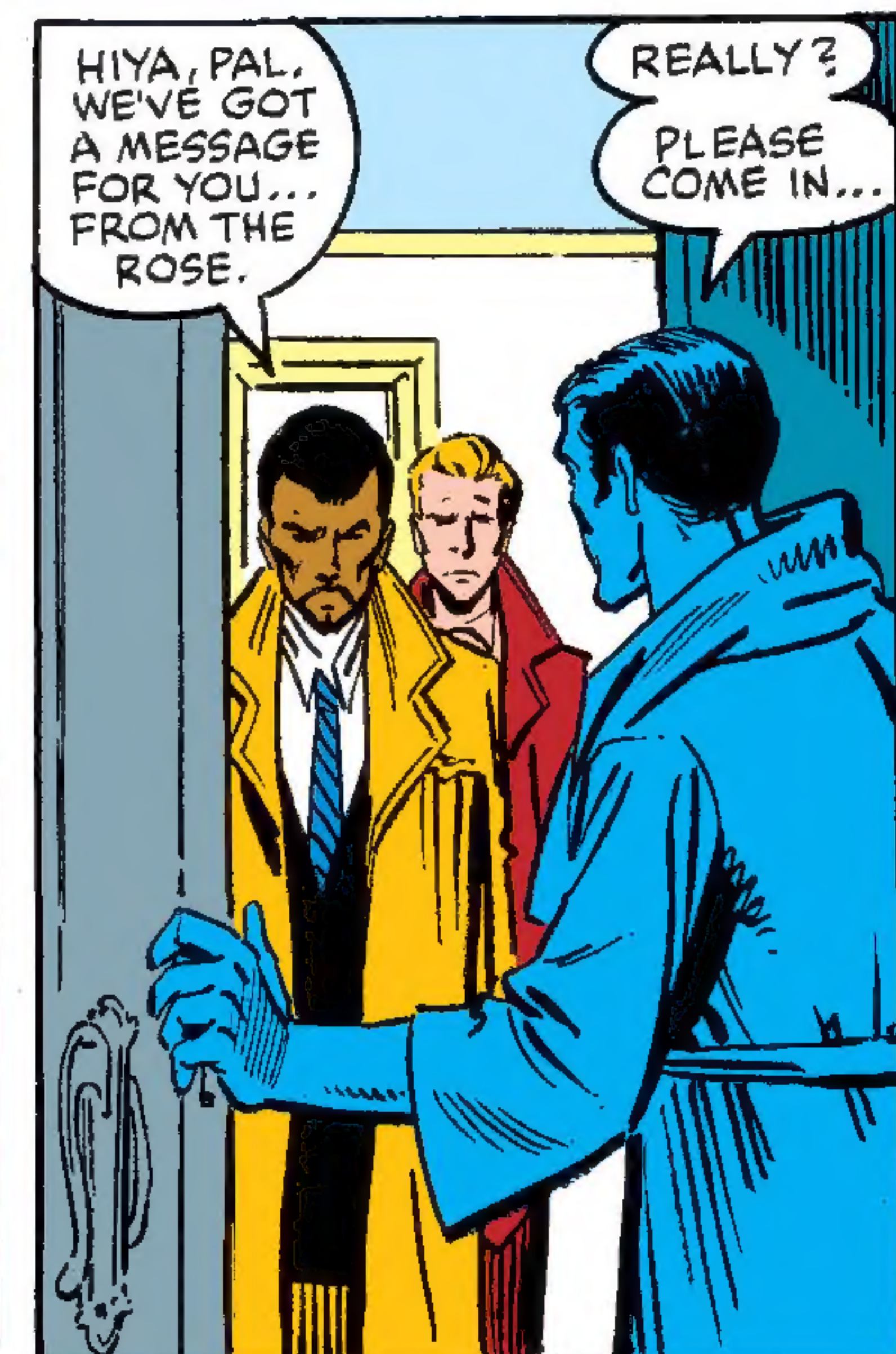
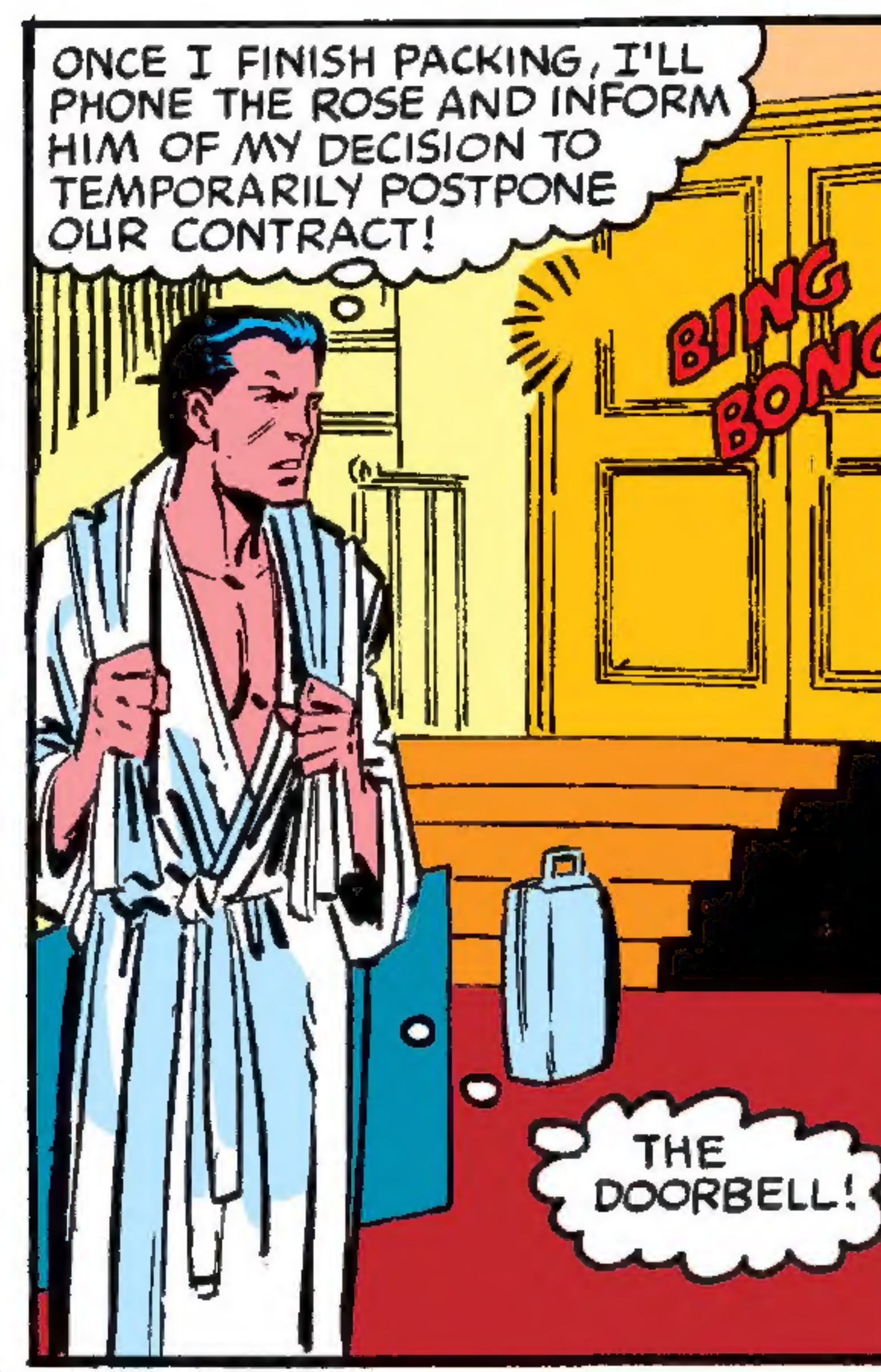
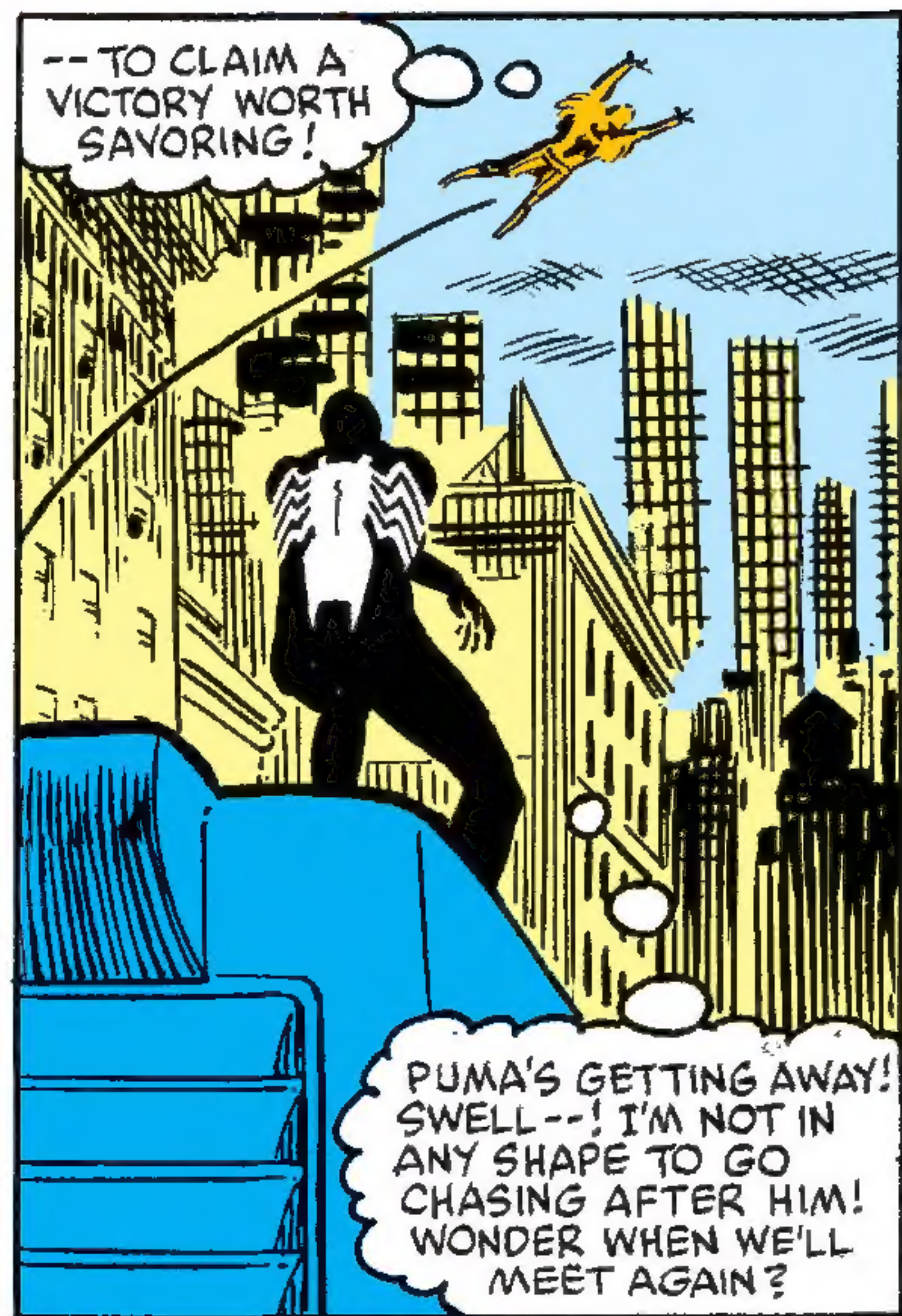
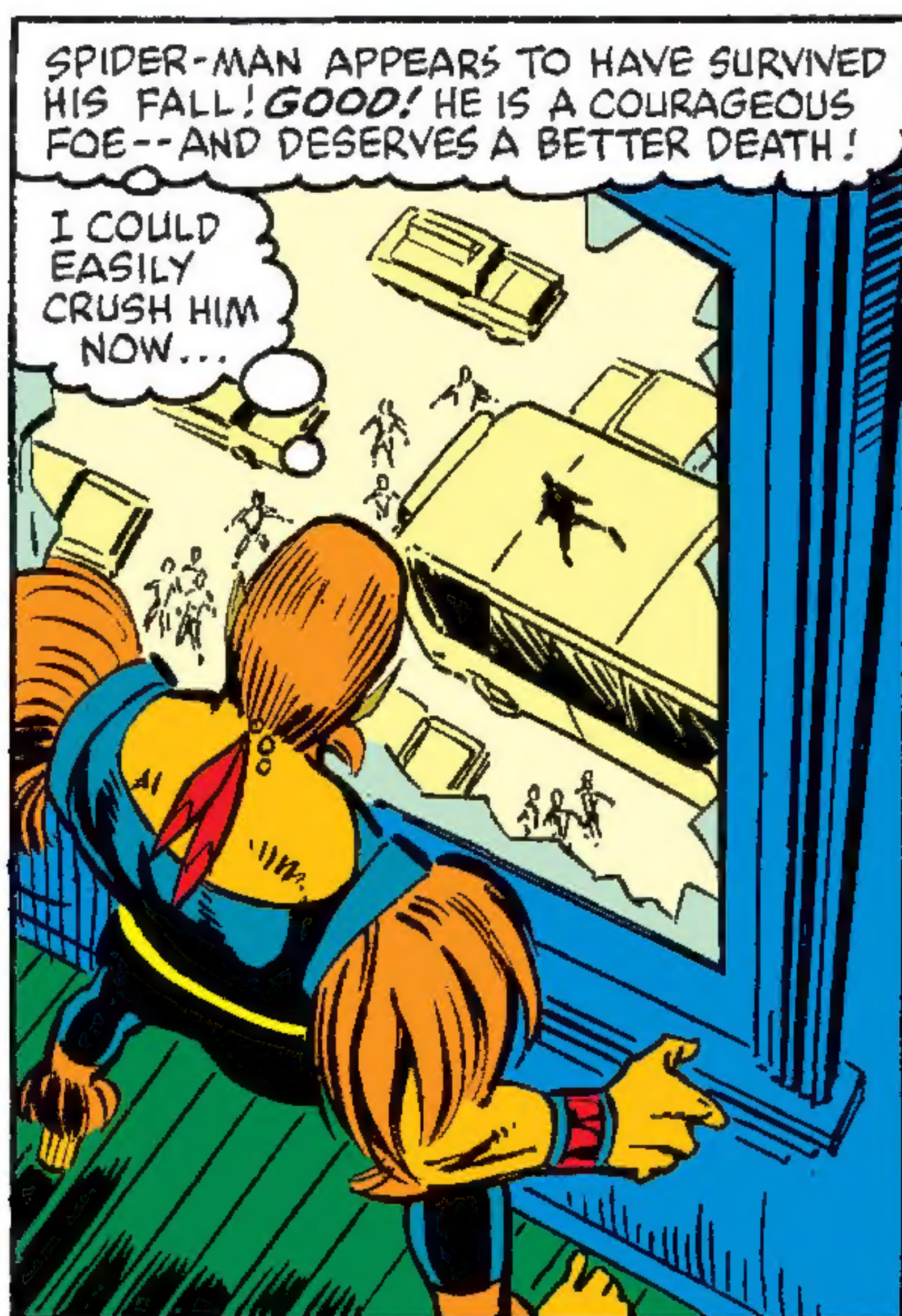
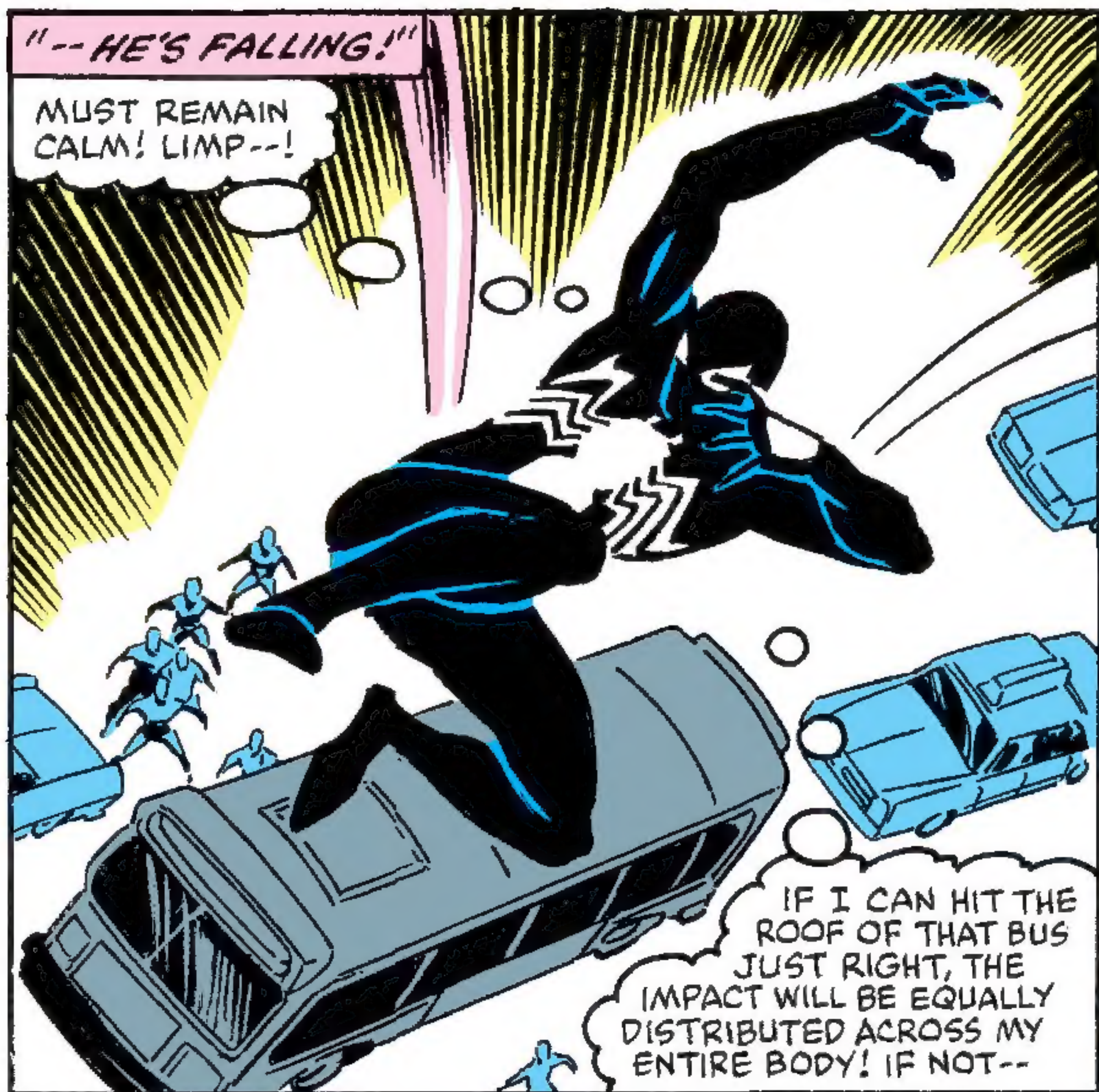














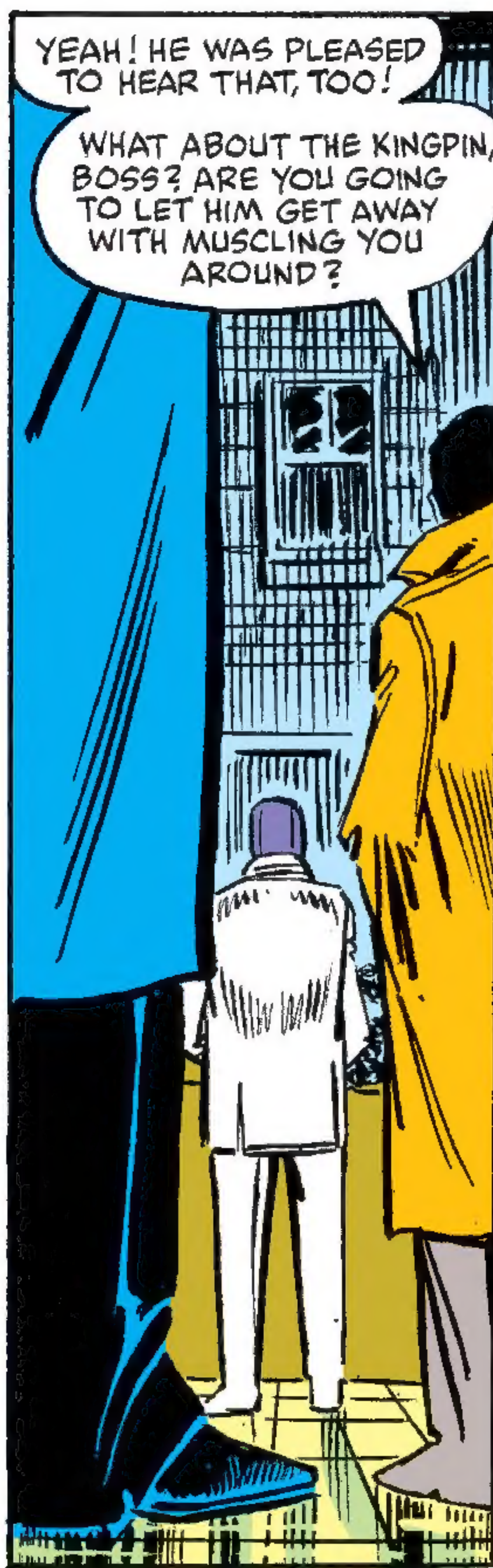
HOW DID PUMA RE-
ACT TO THE NEWS
THAT WE WERE
CANCELING HIS
CONTRACT?



REAL GOOD.

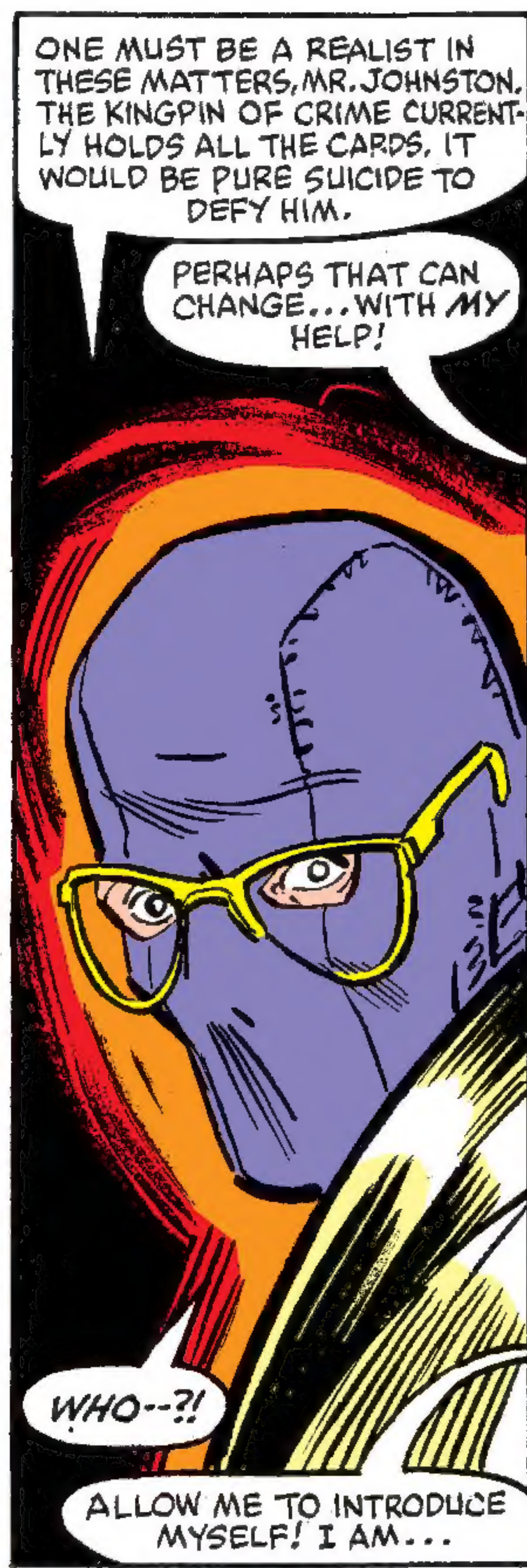
IN FACT, HE
LOOKED A LITTLE
RELIEVED...

I TRUST YOU INFORMED
HIM THAT HE WILL BE
ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED
FOR HIS TIME--?



YEAH! HE WAS PLEASED
TO HEAR THAT, TOO!

WHAT ABOUT THE KINGPIN,
BOSS? ARE YOU GOING
TO LET HIM GET AWAY
WITH MUSCLING YOU
AROUND?

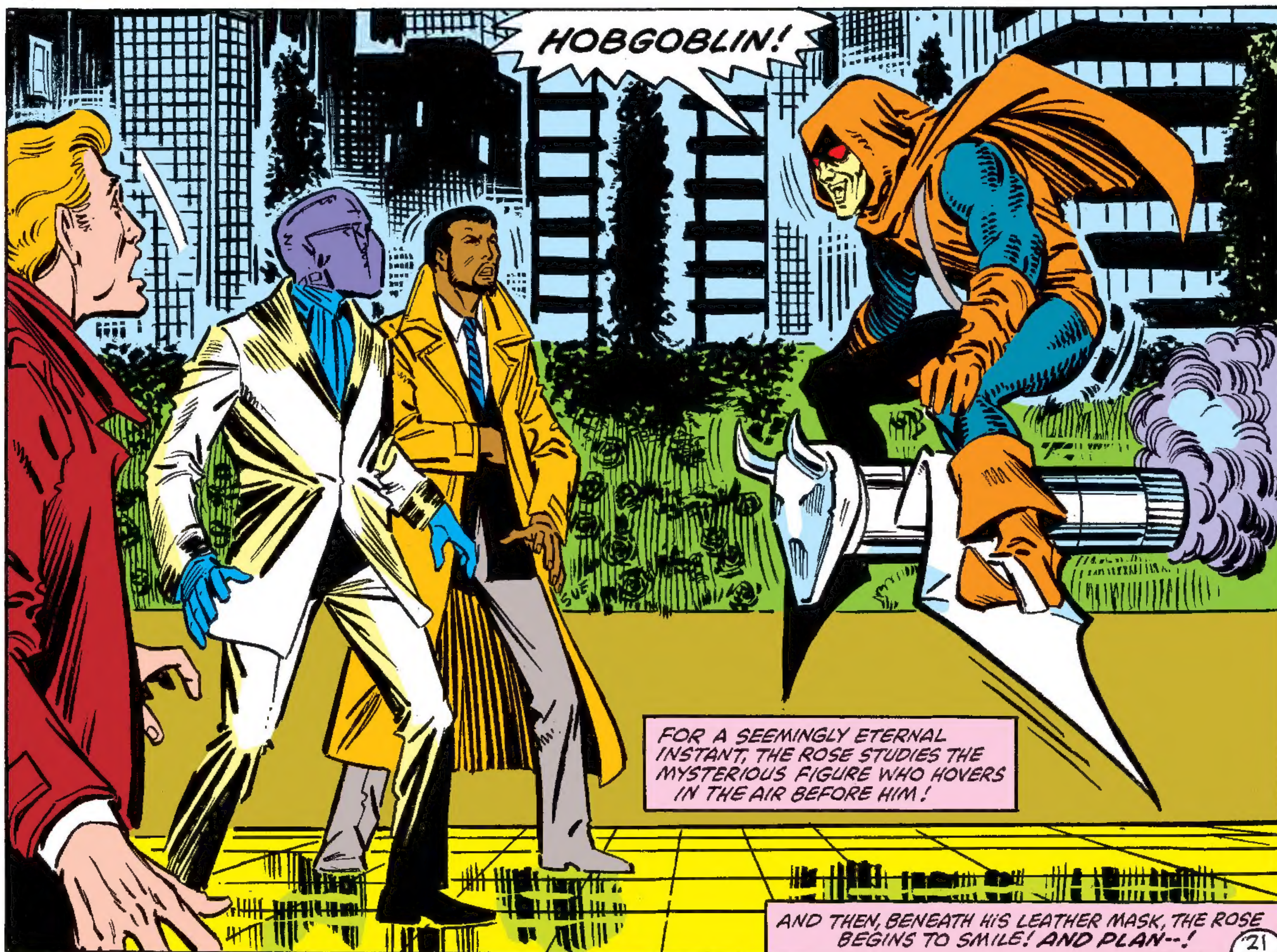


ONE MUST BE A REALIST IN
THESE MATTERS, MR. JOHNSTON.
THE KINGPIN OF CRIME CURRENT-
LY HOLDS ALL THE CARDS. IT
WOULD BE PURE SUICIDE TO
DEFY HIM.

PERHAPS THAT CAN
CHANGE... WITH MY
HELP!

WHO--?!

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE
MYSELF! I AM...



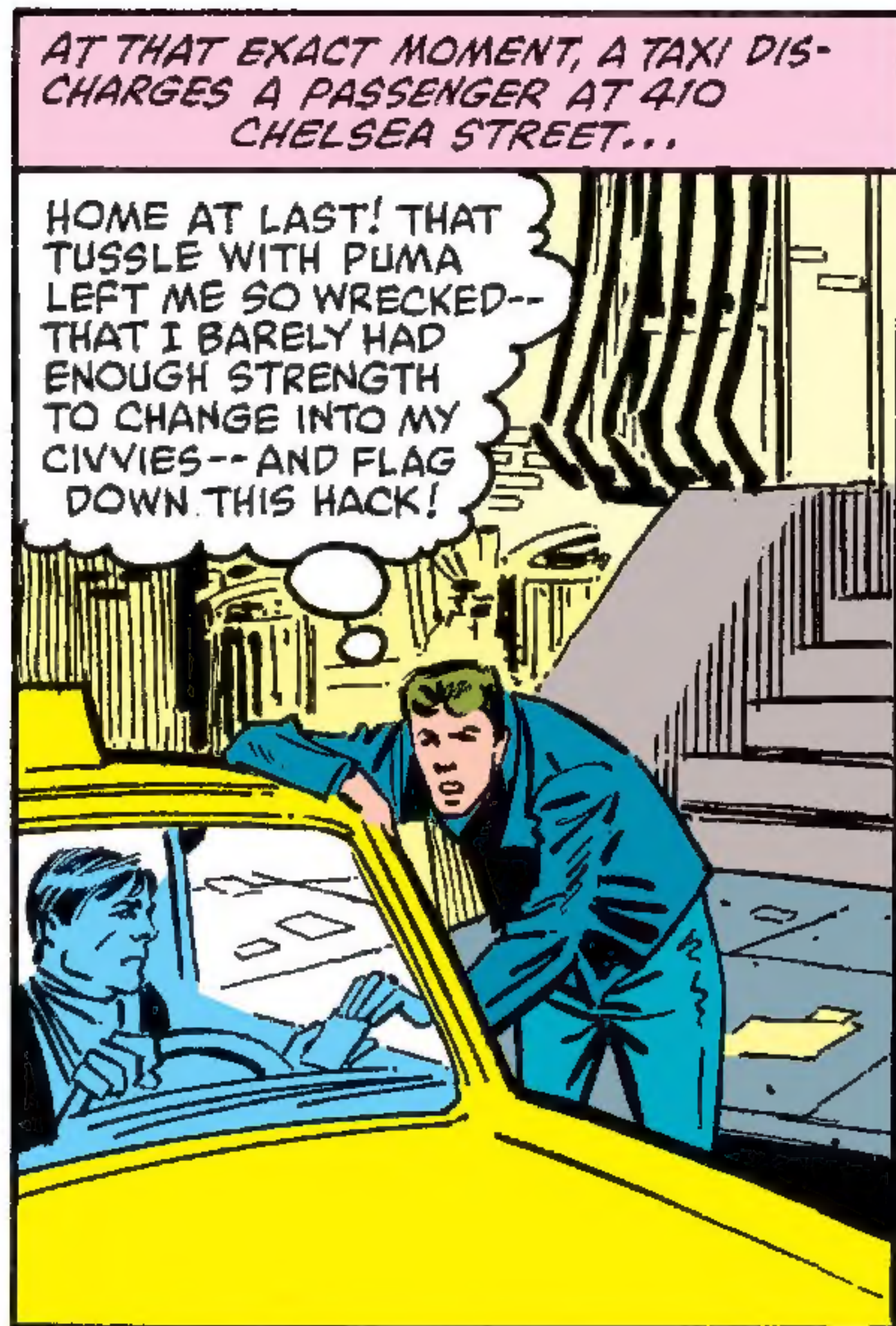
HOBGOBLIN!

FOR A SEEMINGLY ETERNAL
INSTANT, THE ROSE STUDIES THE
MYSTERIOUS FIGURE WHO HOVERS
IN THE AIR BEFORE HIM!

AND THEN, BENEATH HIS LEATHER MASK, THE ROSE
BEGINS TO SMILE! AND PLAN--!

AT THAT EXACT MOMENT, A TAXI DISCHARGES A PASSENGER AT 410 CHELSEA STREET...

HOME AT LAST! THAT TUSSELE WITH PUMA LEFT ME SO WRECKED-- THAT I BARELY HAD ENOUGH STRENGTH TO CHANGE INTO MY CIVVIES-- AND FLAG DOWN THIS HACK!



WHEW! WHAT A DAY! MY BACK IS KILLING ME, AND MY ARM FEELS WORSE!

AND MY MIND IS BUZZING WITH SO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS!



WHY DID PUMA ATTACK ME IN THE FIRST PLACE? WHY DIDN'T HE FINISH ME OFF WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE?

HHM! SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S INSIDE MY APARTMENT! I WONDER IF FELICIA'S BACK--?



MARY JANE--?! OMIGOSH, I HAD FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT HER!

PETER--!

YOU'RE BACK! YOU'RE SAFE--!

ALL THAT CRASHING AND SHOUTING--! I THOUGHT I'D GO OUT OF MY MIND!



EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT, MJ! THOSE SOUNDS YOU HEARD WERE ONLY, ER, ONLY...



YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE UP ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR PHONY EXCUSES, PETER! NOT NOW--!

I KNOW THE TRUTH! THE REAL TRUTH!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



I'VE KNOWN YOUR SECRET FOR YEARS! UP UNTIL TODAY, I ALWAYS THOUGHT I COULD COPE WITH IT IF I EVER HAD TO EXPERIENCE IT FIRSTHAND-- BUT I CAN'T! I CAN'T--!

I JUST CAN'T COPE WITH THE FACT THAT PETER PARKER IS SECRETLY SPIDER-MAN!

TO BE CONTINUED--!





Shadowcat

